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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, known to us in countless ways, we seek to magnify Your glorious Name.

Lord, You are worthy of our praise, for You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for all of our tomorrows.

Remind us all that we are temporary creatures who long for a sense of permanence. Inspire our Senators with the knowledge that You are changeless and that they can trust that Your mercies will endure.

May our lawmakers continue to depend on You for the vindication of every just cause and for the forgiveness of every sin.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, toward the end of the legislative session in Texas, Texas Democrats in the statehouse staged a dramatic walkout, denying a quorum and preventing the Texas Republican majority from passing one of the most restrictive voting laws in this country.

Texas Republicans could come back and reconsider the law in a special session, but the extraordinary measures taken by the State Democrats reflect the extraordinary damage of the voting law.

Texas Republicans were on the verge of passing several alarming restrictions: reducing polling hours, eliminating drive-through voting and 24-hour voting centers. The proposed law would have made it easier for a judge to overturn an election and push back the start of Sunday voting—a measure that seemed designed to interfere with voting drives held by Black churches.

Texas already has some of the strictest voting procedures in the country. The additional effort, in the wake of Donald Trump's Big Lie, directly tar-

gets all the ways poorer, younger, non-White, and typically Democratic voters cast their ballots.

Of course, Texas is only the most recent flashpoint in the nationwide effort by Republican legislators to contract Americans' right to vote, as you well know, Mr. President.

The tide of Republican voter suppression laws is a direct assault on our democracy and could disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans.

Today, I am proud to say, at the Democratic caucus lunch we will host the group of Texas Democrats who bravely fought the voter suppression law in their State. The topic of our discussion will be about how to come together to protect voting rights not just in Texas but across the country.

Next week, the Senate will consider major voting rights legislation. Congress must take action to defend our democracy.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the President's foreign trip, President Biden's first foreign trip has projected a welcome sight to the world: an American President embracing our allies and bringing them together to confront our common adversaries.

Already, the President's visit to G7 has yielded results: a commitment to counter China's rapacious economic policies and unwinding a longstanding dispute over tariffs and trade with the European Union.

Now after meeting with our allies at both the G7 and at the NATO summit in Brussels, the President will meet tomorrow with Vladimir Putin. From the occupation in Crimea to violating political human rights within its own borders, to interfering in democratic elections across the Western world, to imprisoning those who expose his brutal, undemocratic regime, Vladimir Putin has spent the past decade interfering and destabilizing the world order.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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For 4 years, former President Trump turned a blind eye and gave Putin a free pass. In the history of our country, Americans had never seen a President of the United States support an adversary the way Trump supported President Putin on that stage in Helsinki nearly 3 years ago. We all remember President Trump standing next to Vladimir Putin and taking the word of a Russian intelligence officer over America's intelligence agencies.

Trump not only defended Putin repeatedly from accusations of election interference, he actually announced—if you believe this, stranger than fiction—that the United States and Russia would set up a joint cyber security unit. Even Senator GRAHAM said that it wasn't "the dumbest idea [he'd] ever heard, but it [was] . . . close."

Now, President Biden must take the exact opposite approach. The United States must approach Vladimir Putin with a firm hand and demand accountability in a way that President Trump never did. I expect President Biden will do exactly that.

One issue I am particularly concerned about is cyber security and the rise of ransomware attacks on the critical infrastructure of the United States. Many of those cyber criminals, unsurprisingly, may be hiding out in Putin's Russia or potentially connected to Putin's intelligence agencies.

Here at home, I have called on Congress to significantly boost funding for our cyber fighting Agencies and asked our Senate committees to study if we need new legislation to help counter the threat of cyber attacks.

Abroad, President Biden has an opportunity to pressure Putin directly to put an end to Russian-supported cyber crime. I expect he will. The President has smartly made these issues a priority among our NATO allies, announcing a host of joint actions to combat cyber crime, harden our cyber security, and condemn Russian aggression in the cyber space. It is time to take the issue directly to Vladimir Putin himself.

For 4 years, former President Trump berated our allies while emboldening and sometimes embracing the world's dictators and autocrats, Vladimir Putin above all. Already, President Biden's first foreign trip is a welcome turn of the page in America's relationship with the world.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on one final matter, QAnon, last December, I joined with Senator HEINRICH and other Democrats to ask the FBI and DHS to provide a written assessment on the dangers posed by the online conspiracy group QAnon.

They recently responded to our request with a very sobering assessment. The threat of QAnon is likely to persist, and the current environment will likely continue to spur QAnon adherents to see violence as a legitimate course of action. The assessment also

expresses that QAnon adherents and domestic violent extremists will likely shift from acting digitally to engaging in real world violence. That is a shot across our bow. That is a warning signal.

QAnon today is perhaps best known for the role it played in inspiring many of the rioters who assaulted the U.S. Capitol on January 6. According to the FBI's assessment, they arrested 20 self-identified adherents who participated in the insurrection. But even before the horrific events on January 6, QAnon supporters spread disinformation that amplified hatred and violence and threatened our democratic institutions.

The past 4 years have seen a notable increase in violent domestic terrorism, fed by a host of lies and conspiracies that flourished under the Trump era. This assessment by the FBI is a stark reminder that we have a lot of work to do to tamp down conspiracy theories and disinformation as well as monitoring and thwarting violent domestic extremists.

And to my Republican Senate colleagues, I would add that this report further strengthens the argument for an independent January 6 Commission.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1 week ago today, the personal financial information of several prominent Americans was made public in only the latest leak of sensitive data from the Internal Revenue Service. To put it another way, it appears that an anonymous source committed a felony by releasing the confidential information of American citizens, which a media outlet then published. Now, the way this leak has been covered in the press may not suggest it, but the most alarming part isn't whose information was involved; it is how it was allowed to happen at all—at all.

The American people know that having the personal information they give to the IRS made public isn't just a fear reserved for the highest earners. On multiple occasions in the last decade, individuals and organizations alike have had to watch as their filing details wander far from the IRS's databases. And it goes beyond pay stubs. The IRS holds massive storage of sensitive details, from healthcare expenses, to retirement savings, to charitable contributions. They hold addresses, information about dependents, and associations with organizations that may not be tax-deductible.

Needless to say, there are good arguments for paring back the scope of what information this Agency is al-

lowed to collect in the first place. But here is the bottom line: American taxpayers are required by law to comply with invasive disclosure requirements, and they are doing it with less and less confidence that the Federal Government will honor their trust.

A fundamental piece of our Nation's social contract is fraying, but just how worried you should be about it apparently depends on your personal politics. The precise circumstances of this latest leak have not yet been made clear, but the recent history of IRS negligence and outright political targeting tells conservatives to be especially worried.

As our colleagues remember all too well, years ago, the State of California's database of private donor data for over 1,000 nonprofit organizations was made public illegally. A few years later, confidential IRS donor information from a conservative organization's tax filings was published. To no one's surprise, that information made its way into the hands of liberal groups with opposite views on key issues. Of course, we are talking about the same IRS that made slow-walking requests and filings from conservative organizations a matter of internal policy under the last Democratic administration.

So these situations all have two things in common: first, a blatant political agenda aimed at advancing the cause of the political left, and second, the utter absence of criminal charges against the leakers—no charges against the leakers.

So let's be clear. As soon as sensitive personal information is leaked, the damage is already done. The genie can't be put back in the bottle, and the Federal Government has proven far too often that it is at best, incapable and at worse, unwilling to protect taxpayers' data from misuse by the political left. That is why I have been outspoken in support of efforts to reduce taxpayers' exposure to unnecessary IRS collection in the first place.

But every time a leak goes without serious investigation and criminal prosecution, basic public trust in our tax system suffers, and that fraying trust may eventually be irreparable. That is why I joined Ranking Member GRASSLEY and Ranking Member CRAPO to demand that the Department of Justice and the FBI immediately investigate last week's leak and aggressively pursue criminal charges against those who are responsible—actual consequences as a matter of justice and as a practical deterrent. The Federal Government owes taxpayers nothing less.

Unfortunately, thus far, the Biden administration hasn't just neglected to aggressively prosecute overt discrimination; in some cases, it is actually trying to promote it.

Take the massive spending package Democrats rammed through in the name of COVID relief. The spending bill was billed as urgent, but its authors apparently had time to bake in a provision directing relief funds to restaurants on the basis of race and sex

and another directing funds to farmers on the basis of race. So we are talking about blatantly unconstitutional discrimination.

Fortunately, the independent judiciary has stepped in to stop it. Over the last few weeks, multiple Federal courts have struck down these provisions, including an appeals panel led by Judge Amul Thapar from my home State of Kentucky. But these are hardly the only instances in which Washington Democrats have tried to impose their own radical preferences on ordinary Americans.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kiran Ahuja, President Biden's choice to serve as head of the Office of Personnel Management. This is the position responsible for making hiring, payroll, and training decisions that affect literally millions of Federal employees.

The President's nominee has made statements expressing sympathy for the discredited, ahistorical claims about our Nation's origins that form the backbone of so-called critical race theory. One major organization of Federal employees expressed its concern about the nominee's capacity for "neutrality, fairness, and impartiality." I share those concerns, and I will be voting against this nomination.

Still elsewhere in the Biden administration, efforts to subvert the basic understanding of our founding principles are already well underway. The Department of Education's latest "proposed priorities" run roughshod over existing history and civic programs—established with bipartisan support—in order to push critical race theory on public school students and keep pace with "woke" sensibilities.

American students deserve a rock-solid civics education grounded in actual facts, not divisive propaganda that tells them they are little more than a product of their racial background. That is the basis of new legislation I was proud to help introduce this week. Schools that choose to trade in fact-based curricula for activist propaganda like the 1619 Project forfeit their right to receive Federal education grant funding for those teachings.

The current administration came to power on the promise to unify a divided nation. It will be judged closely and carefully on how that power is used.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2017.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, unfortunately, predictions about the negative economic effects of the so-called American Rescue Plan seem to be coming true.

In March, Democrats pushed through this massive partisan spending bill. They claimed it was urgently needed COVID funding. In reality, the bill was filled with unnecessary spending, from a staggering \$350 billion slush fund for States, a majority of which didn't need any more government money to weather the rest of the pandemic, to almost \$129 billion for schools, even though schools had spent just a tiny fraction of the tens of billions of dollars Congress had already given them.

At the time, Republicans warned about the bill's level of spending. More than just one liberal economist warned about the size of Democrats' spending plan, with former Obama adviser Larry Summers noting that the bill could "set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation."

Well, it turns out he was right to be worried. Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its report on May's consumer prices, and the news was not good. Inflation reached its highest level in nearly 13 years, with consumer prices up 5 percent from a year ago. Core inflation, a measure of inflation that excludes food and energy prices, soared to its highest level in nearly three decades.

And what does that mean? Well, higher prices for Americans. The price of everything from bikes to bacon has shot up. Auto insurance costs 17 percent more than it did a year ago. Used cars cost 30 percent more. Shoes and whole milk cost 7 percent more. Inflation is starting to look like it could become nontransitory, or what most Americans call a serious problem.

And Democrats' government spending spree is contributing, but, of course, that is not causing Democrats to hit pause on the economic overstimulation. Democrats are looking at more trillion-plus-dollar spending bills.

The President just released a budget proposing to hike government spending by trillions of dollars over the next 10

years. Under the President's plan, the Federal budget would be \$6 trillion for fiscal year 2022, rising to \$8.2 trillion for fiscal year 2031. Now, to put those numbers in perspective, the entire Federal budget for 2019 came to \$4.4 trillion. The President is proposing to nearly double that by 2031.

It is disturbing that the overspending in the American Rescue Plan hasn't made Democrats think twice about future government sprees, but it is not all that surprising because in the Democratic Party these days, dogma tends to triumph over reality—or practicality. Democrats are ever more fanatically committed to expanding government and taxing Americans, and they are not slowed down by little details like damaging the economy.

Take the increased unemployment benefits situation. Congress provided a Federal increase in unemployment benefits early in the pandemic when businesses were closed and workers had few alternatives to keep their families afloat, but as early as last fall, there were signs that our economy was rebounding. And with the arrival of the COVID vaccines, it became clear that America would be able to get fully back to work sooner rather than later.

But Democrats insisted on continuing the increased unemployment benefits until September of 2021, and the effect has been predictable. Despite record-high job openings, many people are declining to return to work because they can make more money staying home and drawing unemployment benefits.

Businesses hit hard by the pandemic are desperate to return to full operating capacity, but they are being slowed down by the fact that they can't find workers. In response to the worker shortage, a number of Governors around the country decided to stop accepting the Federal increase in unemployment benefits. They wanted to help businesses in their States and get their residents back to work.

And how did Democrats respond to that? Well, more than one Democrat responded by suggesting that the Federal Government step in to make sure these payments continue. That is right. Despite evidence that the increased unemployment benefits were discouraging workers from going back to work, some Democrats wanted to prevent Governors from halting these payments.

Nowhere is Democrats' devotion to dogma over reality more notable than in their proposed capital gains tax hike. Now, I don't need to tell anyone that "tax the rich" has become the rallying cry of the Democratic Party. And one of the ways that the President plans to tax well-off Americans is by doubling the top capital gains rate to almost 40 percent.

The problem is that a 40-percent capital gains rate substantially exceeds the revenue-maximizing rate. In non-accountant speak, what that means is that Democrats could collect more

government revenue if they raised the capital gains tax less. Let me repeat that. Democrats could collect more government revenue if they raised the capital gains tax less.

Now, you would think that the President would want to maximize the revenue the government could collect, especially with his plans for 10 years of massive government spending, which I alluded to earlier. But in today's Democratic Party, taxing the rich is more important than maximizing government revenue, just like tax hikes on corporations are more important than making sure our economy grows and that American companies can compete on the global stage—or raising taxes is more important than passing legislation to boost American infrastructure.

That is right. The President would have reached an agreement with Republicans on a substantial infrastructure bill, but he tanked negotiations because he was insistent that any bill repeal parts of the 2017 tax reform legislation, the same legislation that had driven up wages and boosted our economy before the pandemic hit.

Democrats are so committed to taxation that they included a provision in the bloated COVID legislation that they passed specifically prohibiting State governments from using COVID relief money to cut taxes. Apparently, Democrats are fine with government payments to Americans, but allowing them to keep more of their own money is off the table.

Democrats have long been interested in higher taxes to pay for more government spending, but to today's Democrats, taxation is rapidly becoming a good in itself. Democrats are no longer just interested in raising taxes to raise revenue. If they were, they wouldn't be planning to jack up the capital gains tax rate to over 40 percent. They are interested in raising taxes because they believe that success should be punished.

In the increasingly socialist Democratic Party, it doesn't matter how hard you work to get where you are, how many people you have created jobs for, or how much good you are doing with your money; if you have been successful, you should be heavily taxed for your efforts, even if those heavy taxes actually cost the government money or hamstring the American economy.

The growing commitment in the Democratic Party to an increasingly rigid, socialist dogma is deeply disturbing, and it is certainly not limited to a fanatical commitment to taxation or spending. It embraces everything from a social agenda that is increasingly hostile to freedom of religion and freedom of speech to a fundamental belief that government knows best when it comes to how Americans run their lives.

But, for today, I am just going to limit myself to taxes and spending. Let's hope that Democrats rethink their planned government spending spree before inflation really gets out

of control and hard-working Americans end up paying the price.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON KHAN NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Khan nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 233 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Ossoff
Bennet	Hawley	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Braun	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Hoever	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lujan	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Marshall	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warnock
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Fischer	Moran	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wicker
Graham	Murphy	Wyden
Grassley	Murray	Young

NAYS—28

Barraso	Hagerty	Sasse
Blackburn	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Paul	Tuberville
Daines	Risch	
Ernst	Romney	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Peters	Rubio
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. We have two of our Members who couldn't be here because

of serious illnesses in their families, and therefore we are going to delay the vote on Kiran Ahuja.

I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the nomination of Kiran Ahuja to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. We will return to that vote as soon as these Members can return.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I now ask that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:22 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the American people are counting on Congress to act on some of the biggest issues facing our country.

For starters, there is a border crisis. Since January, more than 630,000 migrants have come to our southern border, including more than 65,000 unaccompanied children. In May, Customs and Border Protection had their busiest month in 21 years, with more than 180,000 encounters in May alone, and we are on track to see some of the highest numbers in yearly border crossings in decades.

Well, the alarm bells are sounding, but amid this crisis, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing this morning on a partisan bill that has nothing to do with the extant border crisis.

Make no mistake, I believe Congress should absolutely take action to allow current DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, recipients to remain in the United States, but a partisan bill that would provide a pathway to citizenship for 4.4 million adults and other unrelated issues has simply no chance of passing in the Senate.

Now, Senator DURBIN, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who has long been an advocate for the Dreamers, if he really were serious about that issue, he now has the authority, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to put a bill before the committee to allow Senators to offer and vote on amendments and to mark up a bill. And if he were able to get a majority of the committee to vote for a bill, he could then ask majority Leader SCHUMER to put the bill on the floor. But, so far, most of our discussions on immigration have been just that, all talk and no action.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. CORNYN. At the same time, Madam President, America's roads and bridges are in dire need of attention by Congress. Every year, the American Society of Civil Engineers evaluates the state of our infrastructure and issues a report card to let us know how we are doing. Well, America is barely passing with a "C-minus." Texas is faring slightly better than the rest of the class, with just a "C."

I believe Republicans and Democrats alike think that rebuilding our roads and bridges is important. We even share the same goal of expanding the definition of "infrastructure" to include broadband because we saw during the current pandemic that broadband is no longer a luxury. It is an absolute necessity, whether it is for telehealth or whether it is for our children learning remotely or for people working remotely from home.

Even as bipartisan negotiations continue, though, the majority leader is eyeing the prospects of a partisan bill that would circumvent the normal legislative process and would be entirely a partisan product. But we know that in a 50-50 Senate, bipartisan work on shared priorities is not impossible. In fact, we did it just last week.

Last week, we saw a great example of what can be accomplished if we will work together to achieve an outcome.

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, in recent years, China has emerged as one of the greatest competitors to America. Both Republicans and Democrats recognize the need to take action now to confront the growing threats posed by China, and so that is what we did last week.

Last week, the Senate passed a sweeping bipartisan bill to invest in strategic competition with China, in large part by funding the CHIPS for America Program to shore up this vulnerable supply chain of advanced semiconductors coming primarily from Asia, primarily from Taiwan.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. CORNYN. Now, Madam President, there is a lot of work that we can

and should do on a bipartisan basis because, of course, not every issue should be or is a partisan issue. But I will have to tell you that old habits die hard around here.

Despite the clear need for cooperation to move critical legislation through a 50-50 Senate, the majority leader is resisting any progress on issues that we can and should be addressing. Instead, he is trying to drum up a scenario where somehow we decide to eliminate the 60-vote requirement, otherwise known as the filibuster. But it is that 60-vote requirement that requires both parties to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work and build consensus.

In a country of 330 million people, we need to have the continuity and the planning and the stability of bipartisan work products, not just a partisan bill that can be undone after the next election for Congress or after the next Presidential election.

Well, over several months, our Democratic colleagues have been asked about the fate of the filibuster, whether they would be willing to eliminate the filibuster in pursuit of partisan goals. Senator SCHUMER, for one, has repeatedly said that "all options are on the table"—whatever that means—and a number of our Democratic colleagues have parroted the same line.

Now, they have looked for examples of Republicans filibustering bills, just like they have done over the last 6 years. They assumed this would be the golden ticket to rid themselves of the bipartisan filibuster requirement and escape blame, only things haven't quite worked out that way. The roadblock to bipartisanship isn't on the Republican side but, rather, on the Democrat side.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, after passing five bipartisan COVID-19 relief bills last year to support the American people through the pandemic, our Democratic colleagues kicked off this year with a different approach. They made no attempt to try to negotiate another consensus package, as we had done five times before last year, and insisted on skirting the normal legislative process so they could pass a purely partisan \$1.9 trillion spending bill.

Well, the problem with that is it was really mislabeled. One, it vastly overshoot the target, and it spent less than 10 percent of the money—which, purportedly, was for COVID-19 relief—on COVID-19, and less than 1 percent of that was related to vaccines, which was clearly the most urgent need.

But the money that we had appropriated last December hadn't even been spent yet, but, apparently, the Biden administration wanted to demonstrate that it could get things through but, in the meantime, appropriated \$1.9 trillion, threatening us with something we haven't seen rear its head in a long time, which is inflation.

But the bill, as I said, included a lot of unrelated and unnecessary partisan priorities, ranging from blank checks for mismanaged union pension funds, funding for climate justice, backdoor money for Planned Parenthood, and an exclusive paid leave program for Federal bureaucrats.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, where did that land us? Well, as I said, last week, the Department of Labor announced that inflation had climbed to the highest rate since 2008. Core inflation surged to the highest level in nearly three decades. Families are feeling the pinch of higher prices as they pay higher prices for everything from housing to cars to gasoline to groceries.

This is really sort of a silent and hidden tax on their income, when the dollar that they earn is worth less and less as prices go higher and higher. But, unfortunately, this is the exact scenario economists expected when our Democratic colleagues rolled out this \$2 trillion spending bill at the beginning of the year. And they are currently proposing to spend trillions of dollars more.

Even Larry Summers, who once served as Treasury Secretary under Bill Clinton and Director of the National Economic Council under President Obama, warned about inflation. He penned an op-ed in the Washington Post in February, cautioning the administration about the risks of inflation, making himself persona non grata among our Democratic colleagues. But he wrote another one last month saying that "the inflation risk is real."

You might think that would serve as a cautionary tale to our Democratic colleagues, that partisan legislation does not give way to sound and stable policies. But that is not the case.

When the majority leader said all options are on the table for eliminating the filibuster, he didn't mention the fact that he would be setting the table and setting the agenda trying to make that case.

Absent Republican obstruction that he and other members of the media forecasted, the majority leader is now teeing up a series of designed-to-fail votes so he could explain or justify—try to justify—why the filibuster should be eliminated.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, we kicked things off last week with a vote on a bill that would exploit the cause of pay fairness, when that is already clearly the existing law, but, in this case, to line the pockets of trial lawyers.

Senator SCHUMER said this month, the Senate will vote on S. 1, the partisan Federal election takeover bill. So just as our Democratic colleagues went on a spending spree in the name of

COVID-19, this bill hijacks the constitutional authority of the States in the purported name of increasing voting access. But this bill, too, is chock full of unnecessary, unpopular, and unconstitutional election proposals.

It makes it much easier for partisans to affect our elections through fraud, in part, by removing requirements for the most basic safeguard, which is voter identification.

That was one of the main recommendations in 2005 of the Commission on Federal Election Reform, a bipartisan commission cochaired by former President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, and former Secretary of State, James Baker, a Republican. That Commission, back in 2005, recommended that voters be required to present a photo ID card and the State should provide free cards to voters who, for some reason, didn't have a driver's license or other identification.

In order to vote in person, most States require voters to present some valid form of identification. Matching the name of an eligible voter with the name on a valid form of ID is a commonsense safeguard against fraud, but one our Democratic colleagues apparently want to eliminate.

In fact, their legislation would stop the States—actually it would prohibit the States—from requiring proof of identification in order to vote. Just sign a piece of paper saying you are who you say you are and no further questions can be asked.

On top of that, this bill would require the States to automatically register anyone in their databases for everything from the department of motor vehicles to public assistance. We know these programs aren't limited to eligible voters and could include noncitizens and others who aren't eligible to cast a ballot, not to mention the fact that those who are already registered to vote would be registered again, potentially.

And even if there are duplicate registrations or if someone passes away or moves, States would not be allowed, by this law, to clean up their voter rolls within 6 months of an election.

But just when you think things can't get any crazier, they do. Our Democratic colleagues want to provide taxpayer funding for political campaigns and elections. That is right. They want you to pay for a political candidate's campaign, whether you want to or not, whether you support the policies of that candidate or not.

A lot of companies have matching programs for charitable giving. If an employee donates to the charity of their choice, the company often will match the donation dollar for dollar. Well, that same principle applies here, in part, except instead of the charity getting money, it is now a political candidate. Instead of the company footing the bill, it is—you got it—it is you, the taxpayer.

I could go on and on. This proposal, S. 1, which we will be voting on in the

near future, changes the basic structure of the Federal Election Commission, which is currently a bipartisan Commission, which is forced to obtain a bipartisan majority before they can act. It split 3 to 3. But this bill would eliminate that bipartisan requirement and simply allow a partisan Federal election committee to work its will.

This bill also legalizes something called ballot harvesting, which is susceptible to widespread fraud. In other words, it lets a campaign worker go around to nursing homes, neighborhoods, union halls, wherever, and collect your ballot and then to take them down to the clerk's office and cast that ballot. Well, the opportunities for fraud are pretty obvious.

This bill would also implement a new financial disclosure policy that even the American Civil Liberties Union says "could interfere directly with the ability of many to engage in political speech about causes that they care about."

But above all this, this bill undermines the trust and accountability that is so important to elections. The Judiciary Committee recently had a hearing where the secretary of state, who happens to be a Democrat, from New Hampshire said the single most important thing in providing a big turnout for elections is public confidence that their ballot will be counted. It is not how many days before election day you can vote, who can vote by mail; it is the public's confidence that their ballot will be counted, no matter how and when cast.

So S. 1 is not a serious attempt at bipartisanship. It is the opposite. It is not an honest effort to pass legislation. Right now, we know that Democrats don't even have 50 votes on their side of the aisle. But the majority leader is trying to prove that partisanship apparently has a death grip on the Senate, but, unfortunately for him, it is not the party he thinks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last Friday, the New York Times reported that during the Trump administration, the Justice Department issued subpoenas involving Members of Congress, their staff, and family members, even a minor family member. It is highly unusual for the Justice Department to investigate Members of Congress. The reason it is unusual is clear: Our Founders created three separate

branches of the Federal Government with a separation of powers so that each branch could serve as a check and balance on the other and no branch would have too much power.

When the Justice Department investigates a Member of Congress, typically, it is for corruption charges. That is understandable, but that is not what happened here. This was an investigation into a leak of information. And the use of subpoenas to investigate Members of Congress is extremely strange territory.

These concerns are heightened when the President has publicly attacked those same Members of Congress. That is what former President Trump did when he repeatedly and without any evidence accused Representative ADAM SCHIFF about leaking information about Russian election interference.

These reports and the reports that journalists and even Trump's own White House Counsel were included in the Justice Department's so-called leak investigation raise serious questions about the Justice Department and its former leaders.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional responsibility to oversee the Department of Justice on behalf of the American people, so yesterday our committee sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland asking for more information. But yesterday Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican minority leader in the Senate, came to the floor and warned us off. He warned the Judiciary Committee against exercising our statutory oversight responsibility because it could become "a partisan circus." This came on the heels of Senator MCCONNELL's personal veto of a bipartisan Commission to investigate the deadly January 6 mob attack on the U.S. Capitol. But now the minority leader is warning us against even looking into the targeting of Trump's perceived political enemies by the Justice Department. The minority leader claimed that the Senate does not need to look into this matter because—get this—the Department of Justice inspector general has already announced he would investigate. That is a pretty decent argument if you have no memory whatsoever.

For over 13 months during the last Congress, under a Republican majority, the Senate Judiciary Committee conducted an extensive oversight investigation into the FBI's opening of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation even though the Department of Justice inspector general had already investigated it. The Department of Justice inspector general had already completed a 19-month investigation of so-called Crossfire Hurricane involving over 100 witnesses and reviewing over a million documents.

That wasn't good enough for the Republican majority. They persisted in conducting a committee investigation nevertheless even though the inspector general's investigation concluded that Crossfire Hurricane had a proper basis

and that anti-Trump bias did not affect the FBI's work on Crossfire Hurricane. Those are the very issues the Republican majority reexamined in their own investigation. In that instance, the Department of Justice inspector general satisfied all the criteria of an inspection, an investigation, and yet the Republicans rejected it and proceeded forward.

In this case, the Republican leader in the Senate is arguing that the work of the inspector general should be enough—quite a difference.

Throughout the course of that investigation, the Senate Judiciary Committee held extensive hearings, but it wasn't enough.

The Republican-led Senate Judiciary Committee was so focused on investigating a conspiracy theory about Obama that they didn't hold a single hearing on the Trump administration's Department of Justice in 4 years. If they had, maybe they would have discovered this latest revelation rather than the New York Times.

Senator MCCONNELL did not warn the Judiciary Committee that the DOJ inspector general's investigation was sufficient or that its investigation into Crossfire Hurricane would become a partisan circus. He saw it completely differently in those days.

Importantly, it seems the minority leader does not speak for his entire caucus. Yesterday the minority whip said: "Obviously this warrants further review and investigation," and he "assume[s] the committee will work through that." I hope that other Republican Members of the Chamber join the minority whip to call for further investigation. Congress's place in our constitutional order is too important to simply look the other way.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it was 9 years ago today, after a year or more of writing letters to my friend and colleague President Obama, that he finally agreed to an Executive order known as DACA. DACA took the heart of the DREAM Act, which I introduced 20 years ago, and made an Executive order. He said to those who were brought to this country as children, infants, who really had nothing to do with the family decision on coming to America: We are going to give you a chance, since you grew up undocumented, to be a part of this Nation. So every 2 years, you can apply for renewable status, be protected from deportation, and be allowed to legally work. We will do a criminal investigation, national security investigation, and if we believe that you are no threat to this country, we will give you 2 years to prove yourself.

More than 800,000 young people stepped forward and made a life in America and did extraordinary things for this country. They proved that, given a chance to be part of America's future, they would make it a better na-

tion. Two of them testified today. One of them is a doctor from the city of Chicago. I am so proud of him, Dr. Bernal Mejia. He was born in Mexico and grew up in Memphis, TN. He struggled, scrapped, clawed his way into an amazing undergraduate institution, graduated summa cum laude, and hoped that one day he would have a chance to go to medical school.

Before DACA, that was a dream that was way too distant. Then came DACA. He looked around to see if any medical schools in the United States would let someone who was protected by DACA apply for medical school. It turned out there was one. I am proud to say it was Loyola University in Chicago, the Stritch School of Medicine. They didn't create a new category of students; they just said: We will let you compete. If you are good enough, we will admit you as a student.

Over 30 DACA students became medical students at Loyola. Dr. Mejia was one. He is now about to finish, in a few weeks, the third year of his residency in emergency medicine. He has spent the last year and a half, as you can imagine, in emergency rooms saving the lives of so many people, particularly victims of COVID-19.

How many times has each of us thanked the healthcare heroes, and how many times have we thought that one of them might have been an undocumented doctor whose future and fate are still so uncertain in America? That is the case today because the DREAM Act has not become the law of the land.

So we had a hearing and discussed his situation and the bill that was sent to us by the House. I believe there is some bipartisan sentiment in favor of that, and I am trying to work to develop that into legislation that will finally give to Dr. Mejia and so many others across this country the future in America which they have all prayed for. They have worked hard to earn it. They deserve it.

I am glad, at this hearing today, the doctor came and told this story. It is an inspiration to me and all who believe in this country that we should have justice when it comes to immigration.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise for the ninth time to once again call for this entire body to have the opportunity to consider and to cast their votes for the Military Justice Im-

provement and Increasing Prevention Act.

This commonsense reform would ensure that people in the military who have been subjected to sexual assault and other serious crimes get the justice they deserve.

I have been calling for a full floor vote on this bill since May 24. That was 22 days ago. Since then, an estimated 1,232 servicemembers will have been raped or sexually assaulted.

Two in three of those survivors will not even report it because they know they are more likely to face retaliation than to receive justice.

Tonight, I want to share the story of just one of these countless survivors of sexual assault in our military who bravely shared her story with me.

A husband and a wife both served in the Marine Corps when the wife was assaulted by another marine. Her commander concluded that she deserved ill treatment for wearing running shorts and makeup. Her husband said that when he read the opinions of the command-appointed investigator, he found that he compared rape to prostitution or marrying a rich man. The wife said of the retaliation after she reported the assault that "[t]he humiliation of the retaliation was worse than the assault because it was sanctioned from those same leaders I once would have risked my life for."

I ask my colleagues—I ask my colleagues to imagine living through the worst day of your life and knowing that nothing would happen to your assailant. Imagine knowing that there was a bill that could change this system that failed you, knowing that Senators from both sides of the aisle have come together to advocate for it, knowing that if it were allowed to be voted on, it would pass.

Now imagine the vote getting denied night after night after night, watching the government that you volunteered to serve and defend continue to fail you.

We have to do better. We can start by bringing this legislation to the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1520 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REED. Madam President, reserving my right to object, the legislation that the Senator from New York proposes, particularly with respect to the issue of crimes involving sexual misconduct, is something that I support. But without a thorough, careful review in the Armed Services Committee, which is the traditional means of making these decisions, particularly when

they affect the entire Uniform Code of Military Justice, is something that is necessary, in my view, and will be done—and I hope promptly—so that we can move forward with this legislation, not only to ensure that it passes but that it works for the benefit of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen in our Armed Forces.

Passing something that sounds good but has not been thoroughly reviewed and thoroughly vetted and will not be implemented effectively for the benefit of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen is something I don't think we should do.

I think, rather, we should wait for the committee hearings. I am confident that this legislation, with respect to crimes involving sexual misconduct, will emerge from the committee. There are other issues that we will consider.

With that, I would reaffirm my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I respect the chairman and his need to carefully review this legislation, but we have been reviewing the legislation for 8 years, and we have been having hearings on this legislation and the issue of sexual assault in the military for 8 years.

We have been passing legislation through the committee for 8 years, but this vote has been denied every time.

In fact, when don't ask, don't tell repeal was being filibustered by the Armed Services Committee chairman and other Members of that committee, we ultimately took that vote to the Senate floor. It was an up-or-down vote to repeal don't ask, don't tell.

In this case, the committee has been considering this thoroughly and carefully for 8 years. And even if the chairman believes that he hasn't fully vetted it or reviewed it or had the careful consideration, many of the Members of the committee have. We have been diligently looking at this issue for 8 straight years. It is time to bring this to the floor.

I am confident that if we bring this to the floor, we will be able to reform how we deal with these cases; we will be able to change the system for the better; and that we will be able to finally begin to overcome the scourge of sexual violence in the military.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR OUR COAST GUARD ACT

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of our U.S. Coast Guard.

For more than 230 years, the U.S. Coast Guard has watched over our shores, protected against foreign threats, lent a helping hand to those in need of rescue, and enforced the rule of law.

The Coast Guard lives by its motto, "Always Ready," and has earned the trust and admiration of the American people. America could not do without this uniquely capable branch of our military.

The Coast Guard is so effective and so versatile that it is tasked with 11 statutory missions spanning the entire globe.

One of the best known Coast Guard missions is search and rescue. The Coast Guard carries out 45 search and rescue missions on an average day, saving the lives and property of Americans in dire need.

The Coast Guard also protects our ports and inland waterways, facilitating billions of dollars in trade and maintaining the navigation aids that make sea commerce possible. In today's global economy, 80 percent of international trade travels by sea. The Coast Guard plays a crucial role in screening commercial vessels, patrolling maritime infrastructure, and servicing aids to navigation, such as beacons and buoys. Each of these functions contributes to our Nation's prosperity and security.

The Coast Guard is also increasingly involved in homeland security. It is largely the Coast Guard's job to deter potential threats before they arrive in U.S. ports. Coast Guard men and women can be found in every major port in America, conducting security boardings and escorting passenger and cargo vessels into our waterways. The Coast Guard also helps to enforce U.S. migration laws and saves the lives of those who foolishly risk everything to travel on unseaworthy vessels.

Beyond this, the Coast Guard plays a crucial role in blocking narcotics and illegal weapons from entering our country. It is not uncommon for Americans to open their news feeds and read a report about the latest multimillion-dollar drug bust carried out at sea by the Coast Guard. In one recent example, three Coast Guard cutters joined efforts to intercept more than 11,000 pounds of cocaine valued at \$220 million. That was a remarkable feat, but not unusual for the U.S. Coast Guard.

As the polar regions attract more interest from Congress, it should be known that the Coast Guard is America's surface presence in both the Arctic and the Antarctic waters. Coast Guard icebreakers carry out a wide range of operations, allowing us to have a sustained presence in Antarctica and conduct research in some of the most remote corners of the Earth.

If all of these roles were not enough, the Coast Guard is taking on greater responsibilities in national security. Partnering side-by-side with the Navy, today's Coast Guard conducts freedom of navigation operations in the South

China Sea, provides maritime security in the Middle East, and deters illegal fishing in international waters.

This long list of responsibilities should make two things very clear: First, the Coast Guard is indeed capable and adept; and, secondly, it is being stretched increasingly thin. Today, the Coast Guard is being asked to carry out almost every maritime task imaginable, but Coast Guard funding has not kept up with these increased demands. The fifth branch of our military needs the certainty, predictable funding, and authorities necessary to accomplish all of its missions.

Congress has the ability to meet these needs, and I am asking my colleagues to do so by supporting a new bill, the Unwavering Support for Our Coast Guard Act. This legislation would essentially do five things.

No. 1, it would protect pay and allowances for Coast Guard members during the government shutdown. During the latest government shutdown, the Coast Guard members went without pay yet continued to serve admirably. This should not be allowed to happen again. We need to safeguard Coast Guard pay and allowances from failures here in Washington.

No. 2, the legislation would provide full funding to eliminate the shore-side facility maintenance backlog while building resilience into these facilities.

No. 3, the bill would enhance the diversity of the Coast Guard.

No. 4, it would support needed renovations at the Coast Guard Yard in Maryland.

And, No. 5, the bill would require the Coast Guard to tell us the assets and facilities it needs to complete all of its missions.

For too long, the Coast Guard has been asked to do more with less. Congress needs to understand the true cost of modernizing and recapitalizing our Coast Guard fleet to meet its mission requirements in the increasingly complex maritime domain.

I am proud of my State's role in supporting the Coast Guard's fleet recapitalization efforts. Mississippi is building two of the vessels that will be the vanguard of our Coast Guard for years to come: the National Security Cutter and the cutting-edge Polar Security Cutter.

The National Security Cutters have already proven themselves to be the most capable and versatile ships the Coast Guard has ever used. They can deploy all around the world and integrate seamlessly with our NATO allies, and use next-generation technologies, like unmanned drones, to extend their reach. These cutters are especially effective at countering drug smuggling, illegal fishing, and illegal movement of migrants.

America will also benefit significantly from the new Polar Security Cutters, which will be the first heavy icebreakers built in America since the 1970s. Our current fleet of icebreakers is aging and shrinking. We have fallen

far behind Russia in our icebreaker fleet, and the Arctic is quickly becoming a critical national security domain. A fleet of new Polar Security Cutters will allow us to maintain a heavy presence in polar regions and keep our adversaries at bay.

America needs a capable and growing Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard needs the support of this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide the Coast Guard with the resources it needs to continue its exemplary service to our Nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 156th anniversary of Juneteenth. On Saturday, we mark 156 years since June 19, 1865, when MG Gordon Granger announced in Galveston, TX, that the Civil War was over and that enslaved people were now free.

In his announcement, General Granger said:

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property.

In commemoration of this momentous day, June 19 became known as Juneteenth. In the years following the Civil War and in the early 20th century, Juneteenth has been celebrated as a holiday of independence.

While Juneteenth has been celebrated in States across the country, it carries a special significance in Texas, where Juneteenth celebrations began. In 1872, four men in Houston, my hometown, purchased the land for Emancipation Park, the oldest park in Texas, as the site for Juneteenth celebrations. In 1980, the State of Texas became the first State to make Juneteenth a State holiday. Today, 47 States recognize Juneteenth.

I am proud to cosponsor the Senate resolution designating June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Independence Day to honor the historical significance this day has in the United States.

Juneteenth is an important day. It is a somber reminder of the original sin of slavery that our Nation inherited from colonial powers. Still, it is also a celebration of the fact that our country strives each and every day to make good on its promise to protect the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all men and all women, who are created equal. Our country was founded on that revolutionary idea, that revolutionary belief that all men are created equal, and

that means no matter where we come from or what we started with, any one of us can live freely and achieve great things.

The story of America and the story of Juneteenth is a story of freedom, and while we have had many troubled chapters along the way, I, for one, agree with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that the arc of history is long and that it bends towards justice, and we have made significant progress on that arc.

On Saturday, as we commemorate the long-overdue announcement of emancipation made in Texas 156 years ago, let us together remember the God-given freedoms we all cherish as Americans.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, on Sunday, June 20, Joe Biden will have been President for exactly 5 months. In these 5 months, we have seen crisis after crisis after crisis. We have experienced a gas crisis, where we had gas lines and skyrocketing energy prices. We are on the verge of an inflation crisis, where everywhere we look, prices are rising on food, on housing, and on lumber. We have already had a war in the Middle East, and we have a border crisis that has been raging so intensely that we are on pace to see 2 million illegal immigrants come through our unsecured border this year.

Just last month, 180,034 illegal immigrants crossed the border. To put that in perspective, that number is a 674-percent increase over the number of illegal immigrants that crossed the border last May—a 674-percent increase—and that number is a 21-year high. The reason for this is simple: The crisis that has unfolded is the direct result of political decisions made by Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

No. 1, the first week in office, President Biden immediately halted construction of the border wall.

No. 2, that same week, President Biden reinstated the failed catch and release policy.

No. 3, most inexplicably, the Biden administration ended the “Remain in Mexico” international agreement, a historic agreement negotiated by President Trump with the Government of Mexico whereby the Government of Mexico agreed that those who crossed illegally into Mexico would remain in Mexico while their asylum proceedings were pending in the United States.

That agreement was a tremendous success. It produced last year the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. Let me repeat that. Just 6 months ago, our country had achieved the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS come into office, they rip to pieces the international agreement that produced that success, and today we have the highest rate of illegal immigration in 20 years.

Meanwhile, as the crisis rages, Joe Biden is nowhere to be found, and

KAMALA HARRIS is nowhere to be found. In 5 months in office, Joe Biden couldn't be bothered to go down to the border and see the humanitarian disaster his policies have created. KAMALA HARRIS, who was designated “in charge of the border,” seems determined to go anywhere she can but the border.

In the 84 days since she has been tasked with handling the border crisis, do you know how many press conferences she has given? Not even one—not a single press conference in 84 days.

She can't be honest about what is causing the crisis so she hides from questions. The one time she sought questions was with NBC's Lester Holt, where he asked her about going to the border. She responded with that now characteristic and, quite honestly, creepy laugh, where she said: “We've been to the border.” I am not sure who the royal “we” was, but that “we” doesn't include Joe Biden, who hasn't been to the border as President. That “we” doesn't include KAMALA HARRIS, who hasn't been to the border as Vice President.

And Lester Holt—to NBC's credit, Lester Holt actually asked a followup question, and it was a very simple question: “You haven't been to the border?” To which she responded, oddly: “Well, I haven't been to Europe either.”

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, we are not facing a humanitarian crisis, a border crisis, a public crisis, a national security crisis in Europe. We are facing it at our southern border. We are facing it in my home State of Texas. And the Vice President, it seems, cannot be bothered to go and see firsthand the failures that President Biden's policies are causing.

I also want to touch on one issue that greatly affects border communities, and that is our land ports of entry.

While Joe Biden has repeatedly encouraged this crisis of illegal immigration, he is at the same time preventing lawful border crossing.

Border communities are suffering immensely right now because important land ports of entry in El Paso, in Del Rio, in Eagle Pass, in Laredo, in Rio Grande City, in McAllen, in Pharr, in Brownsville remain closed to everyone except those deemed “essential” traffic.

Basically, Mexicans who have a visa to enter the United States legally cannot do so through these land ports of entry unless they are going to school, working, or somehow considered essential. Nonessential travel from the United States—into the United States from Mexico for shopping, for visiting family and friends, for casual visits are not allowed by the Biden administration.

Instead, the Biden administration has decided to keep our land ports of entries closed for nonessential travel until at least June 21, ostensibly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This

decision makes no sense, when Americans have access now to effective vaccines and the Biden administration is just fine with allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to stream across the border and be released in our communities.

Despite testing positive at a COVID positivity rate of 10 percent, the Biden administration has no problem with that, and they perpetuate the policies that continue that disaster. And yet, at the same time, they shut down trade and legal tourism through our land ports of entry.

For a long time, I have summed up my immigration views very simply in four words: "legal, good; illegal, bad." I think the overwhelming majority of Americans agree with that proposition. And yet, as we look at the first 5 months of the Biden-Harris administration, it seems for President Biden and Vice President Harris, their immigration policy is legal, bad; illegal, good. That makes no sense. It is exactly backward.

We should open up our land ports of entry to legal tourism, which would greatly benefit the border communities, especially in my home State of Texas.

And we need to end this heartless, inhumane policy that is resulting in tens of thousands of children being trafficked in by human traffickers, which is resulting in thousands of children being physically abused and sexually abused, being thrown into the Biden cages, packed in larger and larger numbers.

Ignoring this problem won't go away. Behaving like an ostrich, Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS cannot plunge their heads into the sand and hope the disaster at the border will magically disappear. They don't want to go to the border because they know the TV cameras will follow them to the border, and their only hope is people don't notice the lives that are being destroyed, the crime that is coming in, the vandalism that is coming in, the public health threat that we are seeing.

This is not compassionate. It is not humane. This chaos is wrong, and it is time to end.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 8 short months from now, the greatest athletes in the world will gather together and compete in the 24th Olympic Winter Games.

Usually, Americans await this awe-inspiring event with enthusiasm and excitement. This year, though, we await it with apprehension and, frankly, disgust. That is because next year's games will be held in the People's Republic of China—a Communist nation that enslaves workers, puts women and children in concentration camps, sterilizes women, and unleashed a global

pandemic that killed millions and upended the global economy.

The 2022 Games will be located in Beijing—a 5-hour train ride away from the Wuhan lab where the coronavirus pandemic likely originated and a day away from Xinjiang Province, where the Communist Party is committing genocide against ethnic and religious minorities and has herded more than 1 million innocent souls into concentration camps.

The Chinese Communist Party may believe that extravagant pageantry will distract us from the reality of what they have done, but no amount of rushed urban cleaning can wipe away the moral stain that permeates the capital city of China. No golden torch can redeem the moral bankruptcy of communism. No fireworks display can make us forget that Beijing is the epicenter of evil in the world. It is no exaggeration to state that the Chinese Communist Party is the purist, most powerful, and most pervasive force for evil in the world.

Locating the Games in Beijing will enrich and embolden the Chinese Communist Party and strengthen their hold on their captive people. That is why the International Olympic Committee should immediately—immediately—rebid the 2022 Games and award it to a free democratic nation. I will note that this is entirely feasible.

If the Tokyo Summer Games can be postponed a year due to an event that was no fault of Japan's Government, we can certainly rebid the Winter Games on short notice if China is perpetrating crimes against humanity.

I would observe that the Winter Games are far smaller and easier to move than the Summer Games. The Winter Games include fewer than half the number of sports, nearly 4,700 fewer medals, only one-quarter the number of events, and less than half the competing country.

There are many, many Western democracies that could easily, easily accommodate a relocation of the Games on short notice. Some of our European partners, like France, Switzerland, Sweden, and Italy have more than enough winter sporting venues and hotel capacity and transportation capacity to host these Games with 8 months' notice. Many of them have hosted modern Games before. Many of them host national and international winter sporting competitions.

If the IOC fails to rebid the games, however, the United States should fully embrace an economic and diplomatic boycott. No U.S. official, company, or spectator should participate in and legitimize China's despotic and totalitarian actions. American companies should not profit off of genocide and oppression or help line the pockets of the Communist Party officials perpetrating these crimes against humanity, these grotesque atrocities.

If—and it is a big if—we can keep our athletes safe, they should compete in the spirit of the great Jesse Owens.

They should stare tyranny in its eye and defeat China in every field of competition. But the only Americans—and I mean the only Americans—who should step foot on Chinese soil are the athletes, their coaches, their essential support staff, and the necessary personnel to ensure their safety.

If the games remain in China, it will pose unique challenges to the safety, security, and privacy of those limited number of Americans who do attend, though. The U.S. Government must be fully prepared for the dangers to which these athletes and supporting personnel would be exposed.

First, the Chinese Government operates the most extensive, sophisticated, and invasive police state anywhere on Earth. Members of the American delegation should expect the Chinese authorities to bug their hotel rooms, their vehicles, and to hack all of their electronic devices.

Second, China has an ignominious history of arbitrarily detaining American citizens and other Western visitors to gain political and economic concessions, placing exit bans on foreign nationals. Members of the American delegation could be detained during their visit.

Former Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell apparently shares these concerns, stating that "spectators have good reason to beware Xi Jinping's Beijing Winter Olympics."

And I would add especially those, like, say, the Houston Rockets' general manager, Daryl Morey, who have spoken out against the Chinese Communist Party's abuses in Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang, and many other places.

Third, the Chinese Communist Party's infringement of privacy knows no limits, and our Nation's representatives should prepare our athletes and their staff accordingly.

China even considers DNA collection as a vital intelligence-gathering objective, wants to use DNA data to catapult Chinese biotech companies to global market dominance, and has reportedly conducted research on biologically enhancing its soldiers.

During the Olympics, of course, the DNA of thousands of world-class athletes could prove an irresistible target to Communists in Beijing, whose evil sometimes seems to verge on science fiction. So whether through the ruse of COVID testing or testing for performance-enhancing drugs, China will have the opportunity to steal the very DNA of our elite athletes—young men and women, in many cases young boys and girls, who deserve our protection.

For all of these reasons, and many more, President Biden should forcefully call on the International Olympic Committee to rebid the 2022 Winter Games.

We must be ready if they fail to do so. That is why I have sent the President a letter urging him to prepare for the various challenges that our athletes will confront if they compete in

Beijing and asking if the Communist authorities are cooperating with U.S. efforts to protect our athletes.

If the safety, security, and privacy of our athletes cannot be guaranteed, the United States should, and indeed must, adopt a total and complete boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

No American should be put in harm's way for the sake of a sporting event. President Biden ought to make these terms absolutely clear to Communists in Beijing, and we should not compromise on them.

The athletes we send to the Olympics are not Democrats or Republicans. They do not wear donkeys or elephants on their uniform. They have no party insignia. They are Americans, wearing the Stars and Stripes, bearing the standard of our great Nation. It is the responsibility of our government to protect these champions, and I hope this is an area in which our divided government can unite.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the Democrats want to call their voting bill the For the People Act, but I would suggest you not be fooled by the marketing. This bill has nothing to offer the people of our country. The so-called For the People Act is, in fact, a partisan takeover of our elections that seeks a government of the Democrats, by the Democrats, and for the Democrats. So it is no wonder that it is their very top priority and it is literally the first bill filed in both the House and the Senate this year.

If this bill passes, it will shatter our Nation's faith in the fairness of our democracy, weaken the security of our elections, and attempt to entrench Democratic rule in the swamp, unchallenged, for decades to come.

S. 1 is a Federal takeover of our elections that would usurp the constitutional prerogative of the States in determining what the Constitution calls the "Times, Places, and Manners of holding elections." While our Constitution has always given Congress the power to determine certain aspects of how elections are conducted, the Founders envisioned that this power would be exercised, in the words of Alexander Hamilton, only under "extraordinary circumstances" and only as "the last resort." For example, Congress could intervene if States were simply refusing to hold Federal elections in an attempt to deprive Congress of the Members needed to operate under the quorum rules of the Constitution. Of course, we face no such extraordinary circumstances today.

No matter the outrageous claims of hysterical journalists and politicians, almost every story you hear and every Democratic claim you hear about State election law reforms misrepresents those reforms or doesn't put them in proper context.

The Democratic Party—the very head of the Democratic Party, Presi-

dent Joe Biden, referred to Georgia's election reform, for instance, as a "new Jim Crow," even though it has far, far more access to the ballot than Democratic-run States like New York and, yes, Joe Biden's own Delaware.

I might also note that Kentucky passed a fairly sweeping election reform bill earlier this year. It still doesn't go as far as Georgia's bill did in providing early access to the ballot. Yet there is no condemnation of Kentucky's bill. I wonder why. Could it be because Kentucky has a Democratic Governor?

The Democrats want to use these kinds of misrepresentations to pass S. 1, which would give all power over our Nation's elections to Democrats in Congress, who think anyone should be able to vote, at any time, at any place, and in any manner, with remarkably little concern even for the basics of election integrity, such as establishing the identity and the legality of individuals who are casting the ballots.

The bill before the Senate would invalidate voter identification laws in States across the country—laws that simply require individuals to present valid photo identification in order to vote. Now, Democrats like to pretend that voter ID laws are racist, just as they like to pretend that anyone who opposes them is also racist. That would be a surprise to most of the American people, though. According to recent polling, three-quarters of Americans support photo ID requirements, including 70 percent of Black voters, who support photo ID requirements. That is a pretty big claim of false consciousness by the Democrats.

After all, it is no great burden to present a driver's license or photo identification at the polling place in order to vote. It is not some devious tactic to suppress any group of voters. If it was, maybe we would need to ask some of these politically correct airlines, like Delta, why they require passengers to present photo identification before boarding flights. Are they engaged in some nefarious, racist practice of traveler suppression? I don't think so.

I think voter ID laws are a basic means of securing the vote, just like three-quarters of all Americans think. Yet S. 1 would still eliminate them all, allowing anyone to register to vote, under any identity, without presenting proof that they are who they claim to be.

The Democrats' bill would also make permanent many of the vote-by-mail expansions that were rushed through as ill-considered emergency measures during the pandemic last year. The free-for-all of ballot harvesting and mail-in voting during the 2020 elections caused many Americans to doubt the integrity of that vote.

Removing guardrails against fraud will only convince more voters that the electoral process is rigged. Responsible elected officials should be trying to assuage voters' fears by implementing adequate safeguards on our elections.

After all, many of these practices were unheard of before the 2020 election.

Now, the Democrats like to say that they have to pass S. 1 in a response to these State election reforms, but I would point out that this bill was introduced in the House 2 years ago, before the States passed any of the election reforms. Oftentimes these State election reforms are being passed by legislatures that were appalled by their Governor's sweeping power grabs. So no matter what the conditions, the Democrats think it is always time to nationalize our elections.

Another provision of the Democrats' election bill would repeal donor privacy laws that keep the IRS from harassing nonprofit organizations about the identities and addresses of their donors. Democrats claim that this change is about dark-money mega donors, but it would apply to any middle-class family who donates a few hundred dollars a year to a cause they care about, like a church or a charity. Yet, if the Democrats have their way, bureaucrats at the IRS would be able to force nonprofits to name their donors or risk losing their tax-exempt status. This should alarm anyone familiar with the IRS's track record of unfairly targeting conservative groups. After all, just last week, we saw a conveniently timed leak of legally protected tax returns that came out right before the Senate Finance Committee had a meeting to justify higher taxes. What a coincidence.

Now, these are just a few of the proposals in the Democrats' election bill. I haven't even talked about the public funding of campaigns. I haven't mentioned transforming the Federal Election Commission into a partisan weapon to be used by the President's party against the opposition. All of these provisions and many more encourage fraud, harassment, and corruption in our campaigns and elections. Not coincidentally, they all seem to work to the advantage of the Democrats or at least to the Democrats' perceived self-advantage. It is little surprise, then, that this partisan bill is supported only by Democrats—not even all Democrats, for that matter, not all the Democrats here in the Senate and not all the Democrats in the House, which passed it earlier this year by the thinnest of margins.

So I am proud to be a part of the bipartisan majority in the Senate that is opposing the Democratic Party's attempted takeover of our States' election processes. Political office in America is not a birthright of any party or any politician, so the Democrats should try winning their elections fair and square instead of taking them over in a centralizing power play.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 151, 152, 153, and 154; that those nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object, and I rise to object to this unanimous consent request.

The VA, for years, has made promises that they have year after year failed to meet. For years, veterans and their family members have called my office, whether I was in the State senate or over in the House or here in the Senate. They are distressed by the lack of service they receive from the VA. My caseworkers would work tirelessly with these constituents, only to end up frustrated by a very unresponsive VA. This is unacceptable. It has become the culture of the VA, and this is something that has to change.

Now, for weeks, the committee has been asking for feedback on legislative proposals which have the potential to affect the workflow and the capacity of the VA. The VA has been silent on this even though we have asked for their views and have asked them to weigh in. The reason we have asked them for this is the VA has a backlog of over 180,000 cases. Their wait times this year have continued to escalate. They are not going down.

So, yesterday, I had a call with Secretary McDonough expressing my concerns with the lack of feedback that the committee has received on what is shaping up to be the most consequential legislative effort in the veterans space in an entire generation. The formal response that I received today was incomplete, but it contained a promise that they would have more fulsome feedback by July 30.

I will continue to keep my hold on these pending VA nominees until I receive the official views on the COST of War Act, on the toxic exposures bills. We owe our veterans. We owe it to them to get this right. Therefore, I object to the unanimous consent request, and I will continue my hold on these nominees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Montana is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
CALENDAR NO. 153

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I will rephrase this one more time.

I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 153—for those who want to know, that is Matthew T. Quinn of Montana; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any other nomination; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. TESTER. Last month, four well-qualified, noncontroversial nominees were unanimously voted out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee—unanimously voted out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which Senator BLACKBURN sits on. Here is who these people are:

Don Remy, a veteran, has been nominated as VA Deputy Secretary—VA Deputy Secretary. That is second in command. If Senator BLACKBURN wants quick reaction from the VA on toxic exposure, maybe Senator BLACKBURN shouldn't hold that nominee of the No. 2 position of the Department, a nominee specifically tasked with coordinating VA's work with the Defense Department, which includes issues like—guess what—toxic exposure. But that is all right. We will leave him sitting at home. We will leave the veterans out in the cold.

Then there is Patricia Ross, who is nominated to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs. So if Senator BLACKBURN wants more information from the VA on legislation and how much it costs, maybe the Senator shouldn't hold the nominee tasked with getting that information from the VA to Congress, but she is.

Then, there is Maryanne Donaghy, nominated as Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. I want to tell you that whistleblowers regularly come to us with reports of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Folks love to condemn the VA—we've heard a lot about it a second ago—when it fails to hold its workforce accountable. I recommend that, if Senator BLACKBURN wants to request accountability at the VA, maybe the Senator shouldn't hold the nominee tasked with employee accountability and whistleblower protection.

Then, there is Matt Quinn—someone that I know very, very well because he comes from the State of Montana—for director of cemetery affairs. So when people die, no one is there in the VA to take care of this issue.

Once again, all four people—critically important people—whom the Senator voted for to get out of committee are now being held by the Senator.

I am going to tell you that, if we want to hold the VA accountable today in a situation where we are coming out of a pandemic, this is not the way to do it. The bottom line is that if you want a VA that can function, then, we have to have that VA staffed up.

Don't talk to me or anybody else in this body about distressed veterans and then say: You know what. We are going to stop the No. 2. We are going to stop the VA person who is supposed to talk to us. We are going to stop the cemetery person. We will stop the whistleblower person. That is really helping veterans.

Quite frankly, it is just the contrary.

I pride myself on running a committee that is very bipartisan, and the VA Committee may be the best, not because of me but because of people like JERRY MORAN, JOHN BOOZMAN, people like PATTY MURRAY. Those people step up to the plate every day, and they do what is right for veterans.

Let's talk about the toxic exposure bill. Let's talk about that bill. In World War I, we had mustard gas. The VA had no capacity to deal with those veterans. In World War II, we had radiation. The VA had no capacity. In the Vietnam war, we had Agent Orange. And, by the way, they died, they died, and they died again because this body refuses to give the VA the tools they need to take care of our veterans, and now we are doing the same thing with burn pits.

I am here to tell you that I had a veteran stand up in my very first year on the VA Committee. A Vietnam veteran stood up in the back of the room in a townhall and said: You are not going to treat this generation of veterans like you treated ours, the Vietnam veterans.

Well, I tell you what: If we want to close the door and we want to delay and we want to push back what is going on with burn pits, then, let's have them die.

You were at the hearing that the lung transplant guy was at. We had to juggle that hearing so he could even be at it because he was on medication.

The bottom line is people are dying every day.

By the way, we are still not done with Agent Orange, hypertension, and MGUS, which are in this bill. They will die. Some more of them will die.

We send our young people off to war. They come back changed, and we don't have the guts to step up and debate the bill. When I give the ranking member the authority to stop that bill from coming to the floor, we are still going to make excuses? Give me a break.

I am going to tell you what. I have been in this body for probably too long. We turn around and we try to do the right things, and we have people who say: You know, send our young people off to war at the drop of the hat. Send them off to war. Send them off to war.

And then they come back, and they are changed, and we say we are not going to take care of them because we need information right now, this very minute, when it is not even on the floor. We need the information—when I have already made a commitment to the ranking member that we are going to have this information. But, no, what we are going to do is we are going to stop the VA from having a slate of candidates so they can do their jobs and service the veterans.

Guess what. I am not a veteran. This doesn't impact me, but it impacts the veterans in my State, some 100,000 of them—1 in 10 Montanans—and, in fact, veterans all across this country.

We can sit here and we can play these games of holding up nominees to fill critical Agency departments, and we can play them and play them and play them again, and we can say we are doing it on behalf of the veterans. That is bull—you got it—total bull.

We have a job to do here, folks. If we don't want to confirm well-qualified folks, then, why don't we just shut down the VA? Why don't we tell McDonough that he is out of luck, that we are not going to send him any help? And then we start making demands.

The bottom line is this, folks: All the things Senator BLACKBURN is concerned about, I made a commitment with the ranking member that we are going to get those questions answered, and we will get them answered with good information. And then if the ranking member consents, we will have a vote and we will have debate, and we will make a determination whether this is the right thing to do.

But just to say, "No, we are stopping everything right now; no more toxic exposure bill until I get this information because we are not going to send you the staff to do your job," doesn't make a lot of sense to me. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. And in the process our veterans suffer. That veteran who has hypertension dies—one less problem for the VA, because we created the problem right here today.

I would ask Senator BLACKBURN to reconsider her hold so we can get the VA the staff they need so they can do their job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, you know, it is truly an honor to work with the veterans in Tennessee, and we have hundreds of thousands of veterans in our State.

I know that the chairman says he prides himself in working with the veterans. I will tell you, quite frankly, I consider it a humbling experience to work with these veterans. Whether they are from World War II or Korea or Vietnam or whether they are from any of our recent wars—the Mideast—whether we are dealing with Agent Orange or burn pits, to me it is heart-wrenching to hear their stories.

And the VA has not done their job. So what we are doing is standing up for

these veterans and saying to the VA: Get your act together. Provide this information. How do you deal with this backlog? Do you have the capability to deal with what we are discussing? Do you have that capability? What is your capacity? How do we best handle these issues?

The VA, for years—decades, decades, decades—has not done their job in a timely manner, in a responsive manner to our Nation's veterans. Therefore, let's say: Let's get this right. Let's get it right.

Excuse me. There is a fly in this Chamber.

Let's get it right now.

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week's conversations about our own government's role in the COVID coverup reflected over a year of refusal on the part of my Democratic colleagues to accept that the novel coronavirus may not have spread via natural transmission from a Chinese wildlife wet market.

As the theories of the pandemic's origins evolved, one remained, until very recently, off limits. This is, of course, the lab leak hypothesis, or the theory that the virus somehow escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China.

Now, this theory didn't come out of nowhere. In early January 2020, alarm bells were already ringing at the CDC, the State Department, and in the scientific community over problems with the natural origin theory of transmission.

Virologists and other public health officials studying the disease were quickly coming to the conclusion that the way the virus was spreading suggested that this theory was flawed. Officials also knew that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was conducting controversial and dangerous "gain of function" research with the help of repackaged U.S. Government grants.

Yes, that is correct.

In April of last year, I joined many of my colleagues in publicly demanding a thorough investigation into the lab leak theory. What followed was nothing less than moral panic. Activists, journalists, and even our own Democratic colleagues accused us of racism, xenophobia, and science denial.

Major media organizations refused to report on the hypothesis, except to decry it as a racist attack on Chinese scientists. Facebook banned accounts that posted about it. YouTube deleted videos that dared contradict the World Health Organization.

Rather than scaring us off, though, these attacks left us with another question to answer: Why did the very idea of investigating the Wuhan lab inspire such a bizarre panic? Or, perhaps, the better question is, Why did NIAID Director Dr. Fauci and the rest of the powers that be publicly insist that the idea of a lab leak was completely preposterous?

Even NIH Director Francis Collins hadn't ruled it out. In a March 2020 interview with the Atlantic, he said that while natural transmission was the likely culprit, "the possibility that such a naturally evolved virus might have also been under study at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and reached residents of Wuhan—and ultimately the rest of the world—as the result of a lab accident has never been adequately excluded."

We certainly have evidence to show that mistakes happen, even in a professional lab. Who could forget that back in 2015, we saw reports that personnel at a military facility in Utah accidentally shipped active samples of anthrax to labs in nine States—yes, a 2015 lab accident.

NIH has also had problems keeping track of things. According to a memo prepared in 2016 by a minority staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, a 2009 Department of Health and Human Services OIG audit found an inventory discrepancy at the NIH caused in part by mislabeled envelopes containing unregistered vials of plague and other antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

In 2012, NIH researchers found vials of anthrax spores in the wrong place. What is worse, the scientists in that particular lab weren't registered to possess them.

In 2014, an FDA researcher working at the NIH campus in Bethesda discovered vials of live smallpox virus stuffed in a cardboard box in an unsecured cold storage room.

Mistakes were clearly made. Lab accidents happen. It is also clear that while a leak from the Wuhan lab could have happened due to human error, this coverup we are now learning about certainly did not happen by error.

We now have an emerging picture of what did happen behind the scenes to create so much resistance to the lab leak theory.

On June 3 of this year, that bastion of rightwing insanity known as Vanity Fair magazine published an investigative report exposing the deranged political gamesmanship that prompted public health officials to paint the lab leak theory as a conspiracy.

The report confirmed just about everything those officials wanted to keep hidden—namely, that the lab leak hypothesis was suppressed at multiple levels of government by officials looking to protect their own interests and to distance themselves from President Donald Trump—so much for following the science. They were following emotions.

The report confirmed conflicts of interest concerning grant awards that supported gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The same people who knew that Chinese scientists were performing these dangerous experiments on the taxpayer dime also knew from verified intelligence reports that three Wuhan-based researchers fell ill with COVID-like symptoms in November 2019, well before the first reported outbreak. Still,

State Department officials warned investigators to abandon their inquiries into the origins of COVID-19 because it would “open a can of worms.”

The internal coverups bled into this year until, finally, 5 days before President Biden took the oath of office, the State Department put out a fact sheet on the Wuhan lab that confirmed the November outbreak and revealed that scientists working there had collaborated with the Chinese military on classified research. The Biden administration has yet to walk any of this back.

We are also finally seeing some interest in the World Health Organization's Beijing-controlled investigation into the Wuhan lab. On March 1 of this year and again on May 24, I laid out my concerns to the White House about the WHO's reliance on the Chinese Communist Party for funding and support. I explained how this reliance drove their initial support for Beijing's response to the outbreaks and ruined the integrity of their investigation. The White House has yet to respond to my concerns, but it is not going to be able to avoid responding because the American people are demanding the answers.

I think it is important to state for the record that what we are seeing in these news reports is not entirely new information. The foundations of the lab leak hypothesis remain much the same as they were a year ago. So why pop open that can of worms right now? Because there is no way to sweep this thing back under the rug.

We have the sudden interest of the media. Imagine that. We also have an entire body of published statements and investigative reporting from inside China. Facebook and YouTube have reversed their content policies, which means they couldn't stop people from sharing this information unless they pulled the plug on the entire internet which, obviously, isn't an option.

We also have the magic of FOIA on our side. We learned from Dr. Fauci's published emails that he knew about the dangerous research happening in China. He was aware. We know he allowed inquiries into the Wuhan lab leak theory to go unanswered. We also know he worked with Mark Zuckerberg to determine what COVID-related information flowed into the public timeline and when that information went out.

Now, I stand by my criticism of Dr. Fauci. His dystopian comments equating attacks on his job performance with attacks on science are unacceptable, but I want to encourage everyone to not make this about one person. We now have evidence that public officials were eating each other alive over political disagreements and that these disagreements derailed investigations into the origins of COVID-19.

This is more than just political failure; it is a moral inversion that empowered one of the globe's most violent authoritarian governments. The Chinese officials who hid the existence of

the novel coronavirus from international bodies are the very same Chinese officials who gunned down freedom fighters in Hong Kong, who unleashed political violence in Inner Mongolia and Tibet, and who continue to commit ongoing genocide against Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang.

It is time for Congress to get serious about cleaning up this mess. I reiterate the same demands I made more than a year ago for a full and unbiased inquiry into the lab leak hypothesis and a broader investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, I joined Senator COTTON in reintroducing the Li Wenliang Global Public Health Accountability Act. This legislation would authorize the President to sanction foreign officials who suppress or distort information about international public health crises, including COVID-19. I encourage my colleagues to sign on to the bill.

Most importantly, I would implore my Democratic colleagues to engage in a little introspection. The officials implicated in this coverup swept science under the rug, orchestrated a relentless smear campaign, throttled the flow of public information, and allowed the Chinese Communist Party to exonerate itself at the expense of truth and accountability.

You don't have to defend this. Please, have the moral courage to make the right choice, and join us in our demands for unbiased investigations into the origin of the pandemic.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the referenced fact sheet and letters. The referenced articles and report can be found online at www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/06/francis-collins-nih/619065, www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/06/the-lab-leak-theory-inside-the-fight-to-uncover-covid-19s-origins, and osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/BRP-House-EC-Report.pdf.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FACT SHEET ACTIVITY AT THE WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY—UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Fact Sheet
January 15, 2021

For more than a year, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has systematically prevented a transparent and thorough investigation of the COVID-19 pandemic's origin, choosing instead to devote enormous resources to deceit and disinformation. Nearly two million people have died. Their families deserve to know the truth. Only through transparency can we learn what caused this pandemic and how to prevent the next one.

The U.S. government does not know exactly where, when, or how the COVID-19 virus—known as SARS-CoV-2—was transmitted initially to humans. We have not determined whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

The virus could have emerged naturally from human contact with infected animals, spreading in a pattern consistent with a natural epidemic. Alternatively, a laboratory accident could resemble a natural outbreak

if the initial exposure included only a few individuals and was compounded by asymptomatic infection. Scientists in China have researched animal-derived coronaviruses under conditions that increased the risk for accidental and potentially unwitting exposure.

The CCP's deadly obsession with secrecy and control comes at the expense of public health in China and around the world. The previously undisclosed information in this fact sheet, combined with open-source reporting, highlights three elements about COVID-19's origin that deserve greater scrutiny:

1. ILLNESSES INSIDE THE WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY (WIV)

The U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illnesses. This raises questions about the credibility of WIV senior researcher Shi Zhengli's public claim that there was “zero infection” among the WIV's staff and students of SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-related viruses.

Accidental infections in labs have caused several previous virus outbreaks in China and elsewhere, including a 2004 SARS outbreak in Beijing that infected nine people, killing one.

The CCP has prevented independent journalists, investigators, and global health authorities from interviewing researchers at the WIV, including those who were ill in the fall of 2019. Any credible inquiry into the origin of the virus must include interviews with these researchers and a full accounting of their previously unreported illness.

2. RESEARCH AT THE WIV

Starting in at least 2016—and with no indication of a stop prior to the COVID-19 outbreak—WIV researchers conducted experiments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its closest sample to SARS-CoV-2 (96.2% similar). The WIV became a focal point for international coronavirus research after the 2003 SARS outbreak and has since studied animals including mice, bats, and pangolins.

The WIV has a published record of conducting “gain-of-function” research to engineer chimeric viruses. But the WIV has not been transparent or consistent about its record of studying viruses most similar to the COVID-19 virus, including “RaTG13,” which it sampled from a cave in Yunnan Province in 2013 after several miners died of SARS-like illness.

WHO investigators must have access to the records of the WIV's work on bat and other coronaviruses before the COVID-19 outbreak. As part of a thorough inquiry, they must have a full accounting of why the WIV altered and then removed online records of its work with RaTG13 and other viruses.

3. SECRET MILITARY ACTIVITY AT THE WIV

Secrecy and non-disclosure are standard practice for Beijing. For many years the United States has publicly raised concerns about China's past biological weapons work, which Beijing has neither documented nor demonstrably eliminated, despite its clear obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention.

Despite the WIV presenting itself as a civilian institution, the United States has determined that the WIV has collaborated on publications and secret projects with China's military. The WIV has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017.

The United States and other donors who funded or collaborated on civilian research

at the WIV have a right and obligation to determine whether any of our research funding was diverted to secret Chinese military projects at the WIV.

Today's revelations just scratch the surface of what is still hidden about COVID-19's origin in China. Any credible investigation into the origin of COVID-19 demands complete, transparent access to the research labs in Wuhan, including their facilities, samples, personnel, and records.

As the world continues to battle this pandemic—and as WHO investigators begin their work, after more than a year of delays—the virus's origin remains uncertain. The United States will continue to do everything it can to support a credible and thorough investigation, including by continuing to demand transparency on the part of Chinese authorities.

MARCH 1, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BIDEN: The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on American life as well as the U.S. economy. Test kits, antibody therapies, and vaccine development have occurred in record time due to Operation Warp Speed and the ingenuity of the private sector. However, the investigation into the origins of the pandemic are not complete. Without this knowledge, it will be difficult to prevent a future, similar pandemic. I urge you to use your leadership to ensure investigations by the World Health Organization (WHO) are free from conflicts of interest.

Concerns have been raised about the lack of transparency of the events that took place at the time the outbreak started in Wuhan, China. In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the manner in which World Health Organization investigators were chosen to study the outbreak and some of the conflicts of interest that exist in those investigators.

Following the 2014 breakdown of security measures that resulted in cross contamination with a dangerous bird flu strain and the accidental mailing of live anthrax spores from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to other labs, Tom Frieden, the director of the CDC under president Obama testified "We also need to encourage a culture of openness and effective reporting of past or future incidents—since a key aspect of effective response is to support rapid reporting of problems."

On February 13, 2021, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said, "We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the COVID-19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach them. It is imperative that this report be independent, with expert findings free from intervention or alteration by the Chinese government."

Transparency is an issue upon which we can agree. In light of that, I respectfully request you use your leadership to ensure the ongoing investigation of the COVID-19 pandemic origin be free from conflict of interest. WHO should be required to have independent investigators to conduct this study. WHO should not include researchers with conflicts of interest or with a lack of experience in forensic investigation. We owe this to the over 500,000 Americans who have died from this disease, to their families, and to future Americans who face possible pandemics.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. Senator.

MAY 24, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BIDEN: I write to follow-up on my March 1, 2021 letter with lingering concerns about the validity of the World Health Organization's (WHO) investigation into the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior reports appear to confirm that the WHO had "little power to conduct a thorough, impartial examination." On May 13, 2021, in a letter published in *Science*, a group of 19 prominent scientists called for a deeper investigation of the two primary hypotheses: 1) the virus began to spread after jumping from infected animals to humans; and 2) the virus was accidentally released from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology and began spreading in the human population.

Among other issues, these scientists call into question the China-WHO joint study's consideration of the two main hypotheses stating, "Only 4 of the 313 pages of the report and its annexes addressed the possibility of a laboratory accident." This fact is deeply concerning in light of recent media reports that, "[t]hree researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick enough in November 2019 that they sought hospital care."

In light of these reports and my continued concerns, please respond, in writing, to the following questions:

1. According to reports, the WHO asked the U.S. government to recommend three experts for the China-WHO joint investigation team. Although they were not ultimately selected, another U.S. scientist was selected for the team.

a. Please name the three scientists recommended by the U.S., and articulate the WHO's reasoning for not choosing these individuals.

2. Beijing has refused to share critical raw data on the initial cases of COVID-19 in China. Has Beijing provided the U.S. with that data? If not, please explain why.

3. The China-WHO joint investigation stated that they "lacked expertise and access to investigate a potential lab leak." What will the administration do to insure that competent, impartial experts are involved in future investigations?

4. WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said the organization was not mandated to do a forensic audit. Why was this the case? Will your administration insist on a fulsome forensic audit for future outbreaks?

I request the courtesy of a reply by June 14, 2021.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. Senator.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to speak for a moment about S. 1.

This bill says that politicians and unelected bureaucrats who spend their entire careers in the same few square miles of Washington, DC, know how to run Nebraska's elections better than Nebraskans. I was glad to see the senior Senator from West Virginia come out against S. 1 and provide some much-needed honesty about what some Democrats' true intentions are with this bill.

I think he summed up this issue well when he wrote in his op-ed: "Today's

debate about how to best protect our right to vote and to hold elections, however, is not about finding common ground, but seeking partisan advantage."

As I said at the Rules Committee's markup for S. 1 a few weeks ago, I simply cannot understand why so many of my Democratic colleagues would like to hand over the control of our elections to the Federal Government.

To take one example, this bill would allow candidates for the Senate to receive Federal funding for their campaigns through a new program supported by Federal dollars. That would include a 6-to-1 match for contributions up to \$200, meaning that, if a donor gives \$100, Federal dollars coming from taxpayers would match that with \$600 more.

During the bill's markup, I offered an amendment to prevent sitting Members of the Senate from benefiting from this windfall, but it was rejected by all of my Democratic colleagues on the committee. This does not help voters make informed decisions. This only helps those of us who are already here in Congress. The changes S. 1 proposes only get more radical from there.

This bill would effectively turn the bipartisan six-member Federal Election Commission—the agency that oversees the financing of Federal elections—into a five-person panel subject to partisan control by giving the sitting President the power to appoint an independent fifth Commissioner to the agency. Because only a slim majority would then be needed to make a decision, this Commissioner could act as the deciding vote on issues that have historically been bipartisan.

If Senate Republicans were still in the majority and I told you that our leader wanted to pass a bill that would tip the balance of the FEC toward our party, those on the other side would object, and they would be right to do so. This Commission must remain truly bipartisan, and that is done by having equal Democratic and Republican membership.

S. 1 would also repeal an appropriations amendment that helps ensure the IRS does not infringe on the First Amendment rights of taxpayers who contribute to nonprofits. Allowing the IRS to possess this information when it is not a campaign finance enforcement agency only empowers bad actors at the agency to target groups that it dislikes. This is especially problematic given the recent leak of sensitive taxpayer information, and the IRS's history of targeting tax-exempt applicants solely based on their political leanings.

Also, this bill would not only allow people to register to vote at a polling place on election day without presenting any form of identification, it would tell the 36 States that have some form of voter ID laws on the books now that those laws would be illegal. This is despite the fact that a majority of Americans supports requiring photo ID

to vote, and it flies in the face of the practices of other democracies, like Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, and France, which all require voters to verify their identities before casting their ballots.

Despite all of the revolutionary changes this bill proposes, the most disheartening thing might be that it was introduced to solve a problem that doesn't actually exist. More people voted in last year's elections than ever before, including a record 76 percent of voters in my State of Nebraska. In the middle of a pandemic, voters turned out in historic numbers to make their voices heard.

Defenders of this bill can't say that this turnout was an issue, so they have tried to scapegoat States like Georgia and Florida, which have recently passed new election laws. President Biden went as far as to call Georgia's bill "Jim Crow in the 21st century" before admitting that he was speaking about a very early draft, not the bill that actually became law.

Reality gets in the way of that narrative, too, as Georgia's bill is less restrictive than the laws of more liberal States like New York and Delaware. Reasonable people can disagree about the best way to conduct elections, but it is disingenuous to say that something is voter suppression or undemocratic just because you may not agree with it.

I hope we can agree that we all want to make sure that all American voters are able to make their voices heard in our elections. To see that in action, you only have to look at States like Nebraska. We have been a "no excuse" State for absentee and early voting for years, which means that anyone who has already provided an ID when registering to vote can vote by mail for any reason whatsoever. In fact, a bill that originally allowed for mail-in voting in Nebraska was the first bill I introduced and passed as a State legislator in 2005.

Many other States go out of their way to make it easy to vote, regardless of which party is in power and regardless of whether they are red States or blue States. That is the beauty of the American system. Each State can do as it sees fit and respond to events like the COVID-19 pandemic while still producing positive reforms. By keeping States free from Federal mandates, we are allowing them to innovate and introduce the changes that work best for them.

Washington, DC, isn't what makes America great. Our 50 States, each with its own history and its own needs, are what make this country so unique.

This bill jeopardizes that diversity, and it would do away with a system that works well and replace it with one that would be partisan, divisive, and, frankly, chaotic.

I think we would be making a terrible mistake if we pass S. 1 as it is currently written.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 123.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 123, Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Ben Ray Lujan, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 157.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 157, John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Ben Ray Lujan, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 15, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 475 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 475) to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 475) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 475

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act".

SEC. 2. JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to Memorial Day the following:

"Juneteenth National Independence Day, June 19."

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 269, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 269) designating June 19, 2021, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 269) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, thank you. That was the Juneteenth resolution, which we will talk about more tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ELECTIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for integrity in our elections.

As I stand here, you know, prices are rising at the pump, and prices are rising at the grocery store. Inflation is the highest it has been basically since the financial crisis 13 years ago.

The number of unfilled jobs is at a record high for our Nation. Small businesses, certainly in my home State in Wyoming and all across the country, have "help wanted" signs up; they can't find workers. Some are worried they may have to shut down forever.

We also have a crisis at the southern border. There is a lot happening in America today. Half a million illegal immigrants have crossed our border since Joe Biden took the oath of office to become President of the United States. Now, these are just the illegal immigrants whom we know about.

Since Joe Biden became President, we have seized over 3,200 pounds of fentanyl at our southern border. That is enough fentanyl to kill every man,

woman, and child living in America today. That is just one category of drugs, and these are the drugs that we know about. Just imagine what has come into the country that we don't know about.

Yet, despite the critics and the crisis—President Biden has created a crisis, and Democrats, certainly in this body, refuse to raise a finger to bring the crisis to an end. Instead, it seems that the Democrats are focused on only one thing and one thing alone, and that is seizing more power.

We are told Democrats are going to bring a bill to the floor next week on election takeover in America. Now, the majority leader already knows that this bill cannot pass the U.S. Senate. It will not pass because he doesn't even have the support for the votes in his own caucus, and that is because the bill is radical, it is extreme, it is dangerous, and it is scary. It is actually a Federal takeover of elections in America.

Under the Constitution, the times, places, and manner of holding elections is generally up to the States. This bill would flip the constitutional order and flip it upside down and put Congress and Washington in charge of elections, not each of our individual States. It would effectively repeal the election laws in all 50 States.

This Democratic takeover attempt is over 800 pages in length, over 800 pages of mandates. Every page of the bill has one thing in common: makes it easier to cheat. Makes it easier to cheat in elections.

For example, the bill would register people to vote automatically, whether they wanted to be registered or not. Automatic registration. Take everyone they have in databases throughout a State and sign them up.

Now, under this bill, anyone who interacted with a State government would then be registered to vote. Well, this includes a lot of people who aren't legally entitled to vote because they are not U.S. citizens. So these are obviously people who would not be eligible to vote. Doesn't matter to Democrats—register them anyway. Maybe it is just a coincidence that Democrats opened our border before pushing this election takeover, where everybody in a database in a State is registered to vote. Maybe it is not a coincidence.

The bill also endorses something called ballot harvesting. That is where paid political operatives can go door to door and collect hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of ballots—other people's ballots—and then they get to decide which ballots they are going to turn in. No supervision. No accountability. None. These activists could destroy, tamper, or lose ballots. These activists could do just that. No one would ever know.

Additionally, the bill would force taxpayers to pay for political campaigns. For every small political donation, taxpayers would pay and kick in an additional \$6—\$6 kicked in by the

taxpayers for every \$1 of small-dollar donations raised. Much of it is raised online. This is an invitation to money laundering. Activists could spread out donations to get free taxpayer money.

One of my colleagues in the Senate on the Republican side of the aisle looked at this and said: "Gee." Based on fundraising that he has done online, he would be entitled to a check from the government for \$30 million. Taxpayers don't want to put that kind of taxpayer dollar behind any candidate, whether they are Republican or Democrat.

Democrats sit here and they claim they want less money in politics. Yet every several years—every 2 years, they outspend the Republicans. Now they want taxpayers to add to the money they are spending. Well, political activists have plenty of money already. They don't need additional taxpayer dollars.

Finally, this bill would ban voter ID. That means when you go to vote and you ask for a ballot—this is what voter ID is. You go to vote, you ask for a ballot, and you have to show an identification card that proves you are who you say you are. Democrats have been trying to eliminate that one for a long, long time. Democrats claim that asking for identification is racist.

The idea that people can't get an ID is absurd. It is condescending. ID is required to check into a hotel. It is required to order a beer at a bar. It is required to buy a pack of cigarettes. It is required to get on an airplane—any airline in America. Voting is a lot more important than any of these things. It is the foundation of our entire system of government. We ought to make it safe, and we ought to make it secure.

During the committee process, Democrats had a chance to fix the bill. Senator HYDE-SMITH from Mississippi said that she would like to take a look at this bill and use the campaign funding instead to help rural hospitals, instead of this matching money of 6 to 1 to candidates. Oh, no. Democrats didn't want any part of that. They want the money.

Senator FISCHER and Senator HAGERTY said that we should delay the date the bill would go into effect. That would prevent a conflict of interest for the Democrats who vote for it, because, in a sense, the Democrats who vote for it would be getting the money themselves. Democrats said: No. No. We want the money.

Senator HYDE-SMITH and Senator CRUZ also tried to remove this ban on voter ID from the bill. Democrats said: Nope. People can show up, say whoever they want to say they are, and get a ballot.

Democrats deny the existence of voter fraud. They claim no irregularities ever happen—not in their elections. So then why are they trying to repeal or eliminate or take over every State voting law in the country?

Truth is, there is a problem with our elections today. Yet the Democratic

bill would make these problems even worse.

A majority of the public says they don't want future elections to look like the last one—special situation, a pandemic. They don't want future elections to look like the last one. The American people want security, and they want integrity. We want to trust that our elections are fair.

That is why I have joined Senator SCOTT of Florida, Senator HYDE-SMITH, and Senator LUMMIS to introduce a bill specifically to give people more confidence in our elections. It is called the Save Democracy Act. Our bill bans vote harvesting. It bans automatic registration. It requires at least a Social Security number to register to vote.

Under our bill, States can't just send out ballots in the mail based on old information. People could still vote by mail, as they do in my home State of Wyoming; they would just need to request a ballot. They wouldn't get a ballot automatically in the mail; they would have to request a ballot so that we know their information is up-to-date. These are the kind of common-sense protections that our elections need. Our bill makes it actually harder to cheat, not easier. The Democrat's bill makes it easier to cheat.

At a time like this, when prices are too high, hiring is too low, the U.S. Senate has important work to do, the things that we hear about when we go home on weekends: What does it cost for gas? What does it cost for groceries? What does it cost to fill up your car?

The American people want us to work on these bread-and-butter issues that affect their daily lives. They don't want this partisan power grab that is going to be voted on in the Senate next week. They also don't want the Senate wasting time on bills that cannot pass.

It is time for the Democrats and the Democratic leader to focus on what the American people are asking us to focus on: bring down inflation, stop paying people more to not work than they would make if they were working, secure our southern border, and leave our elections alone. That is what I hear at home, and I know that many of the Members are hearing the exact same thing as we work here to focus on what should be the future of a better, more prosperous America, not a one-sided America, with a domination of elections based on a law to make it easier to cheat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is no secret that this Senator has been a leader in promoting renewable energy sources. Iowa has done even more to lead the Nation in biofuels production. This leads to a cleaner environment and really increases America's energy independence.

Last week, Reuters reported the Biden administration is considering ways to allow U.S. oil refiners to not meet their biofuel blending requirements. This same administration has proposed hundreds of billions of dollars in subsidies for electric vehicles but failed to include any support for biofuels infrastructure, which play a vital role in our Nation's transportation sector as well as our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

Need I remind my colleagues, President Biden promised in his campaign to "promote and advance renewable energy, ethanol, and other biofuels to help rural America and our nation's farmers." President Biden is not keeping that promise.

Unfortunately, despite the administration's emphasis on the environment and climate, their recent actions contradict that and undermine their entire credibility. The biofuel industry has proven that ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions from motor fuel by almost half.

Almost every vehicle on the road can run on at least E10 ethanol. Many retailers are now selling more E15 ethanol and other higher blends like E85, if you have a vehicle that can use E85. Whether it is 10 percent, 15 percent, or 85 percent, it is cleaner than 100 percent petroleum.

According to the Energy Information Administration, by 2050, 81 percent of new vehicle sales will still be gas-powered or flex fuel.

In my introductory telephone conversation with EPA Administrator Regan, when he was nominated, he told me that biofuels are a major tool in the Biden administration's plan to combat climate change. I stressed to him at that time the importance of the biofuels industry to both agriculture and energy, and Iowa happens to be the No. 1 producer of ethanol.

No matter what the EPA or Big Oil says about the impact of its waivers to oil companies making billions in profits, farmers and biofuel producers know and feel the negative impact. Any attempt to exempt oil refiners from their biofuels obligation is a blatant bailout.

The law is simple: Blend biofuels or buy credits from those who do. By adding more biofuels to our energy mix, we can reduce emissions from dirty oil while keeping transportation costs low for working families.

Unfortunately, despite the administration's emphasis on environment, it seems like biofuels don't appear to be much of a priority and well short of what nominee at that time, now-EPA Director Regan said that it would be. Now it looks like labor unions have been co-opted by Big Oil, and we are doing their bidding in the White House.

President Biden is now faced with a decision. He can lower greenhouse gases with biofuels or he can side with Big Oil to destroy biofuel demand by illegally tampering with the renewable fuel standard, just as we had problems with previous administrations, both

Republican and Democratic—referring to what the Obama and Trump administrations did with the small refineries exemption.

Whether it is labor unions or Big Oil, I won't tire in standing up for home-grown clean biofuels. I did that whether we had Democratic or Republican administrations. I will continue to advocate for Iowans and the biofuels because it strengthens U.S. energy independence, makes for a cleaner environment, and creates jobs in rural America.

I encourage President Biden, EPA Administrator Regan, and my colleagues from across the aisle to keep it clean.

Does President Biden want to be known as "Big Oil" Biden? I don't think he does.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. RES. 134

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, for more than 100 years, throughout times of change, tumult, and uncertainty, there has been a constant: the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The UK has been one of our staunchest and most loyal allies. We have stood beside each other through two World Wars and the Cold War. In the 21st century, the United States and the United Kingdom have become even stronger friends and partners, both in the fight against global terrorism and for freedom, peace, and prosperity.

Now an opportunity lies before us to strengthen the relationship more than ever by securing a free-trade agreement between our two nations, which is the purpose of the resolution before us today. The trading relationship between our countries is already really strong. For hundreds of years, it has been a force for economic prosperity and security for us both.

In just 2019, the total trade in goods and services between our two countries totaled \$273 billion, and the United Kingdom was the seventh largest trading partner of the United States in goods. Figures from that same year show that U.S. trade with the United Kingdom resulted in a \$21.8 billion trade surplus.

The United States and the United Kingdom, in fact, share the single largest bilateral trade and investment relationship in the world. And now, with the UK's newfound ability to negotiate independent free-trade deals, we have the opportunity to grow that relationship even more.

A free-trade agreement would allow even more goods and services to flow even more easily between our two countries. It would allow for expanded commercial partnerships and greater investments in emerging industries. It would serve as an even greater engine of prosperity and economic liberty on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

This is a no-brainer, and it would be a tremendous asset in the midst of the economic and geopolitical challenges we face today. The pandemic and supply chain turmoil have proven that friends are invaluable in a pinch. While many global relationships have been unsteady and many governments don't know what their future trading relationships will look like, the United Kingdom has been a stalwart and secure partner with the United States.

Furthermore, it could not be a better move in the age of great power competition with China. We will not beat China by trying to be like China in imposing centralized command-and-control grips on the economy that will strangle trade and trample free enterprise. Instead, we should do what we have always done best: prioritize free, open, and fair commerce with friendly nations, as the G7 this past weekend confirmed.

At the conclusion of the summit, the group, as a whole, agreed to "secure our future prosperity by championing freer, fairer trade within a reformed trading system." And the United States and the United Kingdom signed a New Atlantic Charter in which both countries committed to take actions "enabling open and fair trade between nations."

Securing a mutually beneficial trade agreement with one of our oldest and closest allies would be in the best interest of us all. As President Biden himself recently said: "America's alliances are our greatest asset, and leading with diplomacy means standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies and key partners once again."

On this point, I could not agree with President Biden more. Congress can seize this opportunity by supporting the resolution before us today. It is a simple, straightforward resolution declaring the sense of the Senate that the United States has and should have a close and mutually beneficial trade relationship with the United Kingdom without interruption and that the President, with the support of Congress, should lay the groundwork for a future trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Borrowing a phrase from Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after his first face-to-face meeting with President Biden at the summit this past weekend, the United States-United Kingdom relationship is "indestructible." No two nations have worked more closely together. No two peoples have done more to expand and defend liberty or to achieve peace and prosperity.

Throughout history, this partnership has steadied the world through some of its greatest perils. It can continue to do so today if only we let it. The American and British peoples have the opportunity to once again join forces and emerge from the challenges we face stronger than ever for the benefit of our countries and nations across the globe. To that end, I urge each of my colleagues to support this resolution.

And I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 134. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, this resolution—and I am just going to make a few key points here—is on the trade agreement with the UK, and it is a question of international trade, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.

The committee has not been consulted on the resolution so Senators have not had adequate time to consider it. Needless to say, the prospect of reshaping the American economy with sweeping trade deals is not something that should just rocket past the committee of jurisdiction.

Second, I have serious concerns about blessing a potential trade agreement with the United Kingdom when the contents of such an agreement are still unknown. I stated a number of times that there are serious issues that need consideration with respect to our economic relationship with the United Kingdom. That cannot happen if the debates play out in a slapdash process on the floor of the Senate.

For example, the United Kingdom has not only proposed but implemented a discriminatory digital service tax since entering negotiations with the United States. What they are doing is opportunistically looting American technology companies before these measures are shut down by an FTA or another agreement. The UK is also considering other discriminatory policies.

The UK must commit to abandoning these unfair policies, which are serious barriers to trade, a detriment to the special relationship, harmful to American workers, as a precondition of honest and worthwhile negotiations.

Otherwise, if Senators are going to rush to hand out big promises on trade talks, they risk surrendering America's negotiating position on these key issues without getting anything in return.

So I don't see the wisdom in undermining good-paying American jobs and American businesses with a trading partner that has thus far seen no reason to back away from discriminatory measures. For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments and the insight provided by my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Oregon.

As to the point regarding our relative negotiating power and the wisdom of approaching this task right now, it is important to remember this resolution doesn't purport to offer the details of

any such deal. It calls for a free-trade agreement. There is nothing surrendered by that. There is, however, a lot to be gained by that in signaling that we want to continue to have an open, free, and fair relationship with the United Kingdom.

As to the process concerns articulated by my friend and colleague, while he has expressed some concerns about the process, I must provide some evidence to the contrary.

Over the past year, my staff has communicated with the Senate Finance Committee staff, staff on both sides of the aisle, upward of half a dozen times. They have also pitched changes to assuage concerns about language multiple times but never received any definitive responses.

Furthermore, I have worked with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to craft almost identical draft language on United States-United Kingdom trade that was included in S. Res. 117, on the Good Friday Agreement, which passed before this body without objection. There is no reason why we can't reach a similar compromise on this legislation, and I stand ready and willing to work with my colleague from Oregon to do so.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, due to a family medical emergency, I was unable to attend today's vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 119, Lina M. Khan, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted yea on confirmation. •

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN S. EIFLER

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Mr. INHOFE, as the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the co-chairs of the Senate Army Caucus, it is our honor to pay tribute to a great leader and an exceptional officer of the U.S. Army MG Brian S. Eifler, the chief of legislative liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Army, as he prepares to leave this position for a new post in the Army of even greater importance to our Nation. Major General Eifler provides outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army, Congress, and this Nation.

Major General Eifler has served our Army and our Nation for more than 30 years. A native of Michigan, Major General Eifler was commissioned in 1990 as an infantry officer from Central Michigan University. He has been a true professional, dedicated soldier, leader, and officer. Throughout his career, he has commanded our great soldiers at many levels and deployed to

combat numerous times in defense of the Nation. He has served in various command and staff positions over deployments to Haiti, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was a platoon leader and civil-military officer in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, served multiple combat tours to Afghanistan as a battalion commander during Operation Enduring Freedom, and a battalion operations and executive officer, battalion commander, as well as a division deputy commanding general in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Major General Eifler's other assignments include service in the 1st Armored Division, 2d Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 25th Infantry Division, 38th Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and the 75th Ranger Regiment. In addition to Infantry training, he is a graduate of the United States Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College.

For the past 30 months, Major General Eifler has implemented and enhanced strategic partnerships with Congress. Through his leadership, the Army significantly advanced relationships with both legislative chambers and improved and broadened congressional support for Army priorities. Major General Eifler managed complex issues through multiple legislative cycles, enabling the Army to receive the necessary resources to take care of its most precious recourse, its people, improve readiness, and accelerate modernization to support combat operations, sustain the All-Volunteer Force, and improve the quality of life for soldiers, Army civilians, and their families.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, we thank Major General Eifler, his wife Sherry, and their entire family for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future successes as he continues to serve our great Army and Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO UNDERSHERIFF GEORGE SKULETICH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Undersheriff George Skuletich of Butte-Silver Bow County as Montanan of the Month for his steadfast service to the Butte community for more than 40 years.

George started as a detention officer at the Butte jail on June 5, 1981, and later was appointed as a Butte police officer in June of 1985. Since that time, he has served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, DARE officer, school resource officer, SWAT officer, and patrol captain. He was instrumental in the design and building of the Law Enforcement Center as well as

the Butte-Silver Bow Detention Center. George has served as Butte-Silver Undersheriff since January of 2013.

George embodies the heart of a Montanan and the public service and dedication of a Montana law enforcement officer. Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff Ed Lester has said if he had to go through a door, not knowing what was on the other side, he would take George with him because he would never leave a fellow officer behind, no matter how bad things got. There is no higher compliment.

George has responded to nearly any type of incident you can think of, from aircraft crashes to bomb threats, and his calm and respectful demeanor has proven him to be a valuable leader. George truly cares about the Montanans he has served. On behalf of a grateful Butte community, I want to thank George for his service to the great State of Montana, and I wish him a peaceful and relaxing retirement.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON TRAIL DAYS

• Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 100th anniversary of Oregon Trail Days. This Nebraska tradition honors our State's history as one of the first stops on the Oregon Trail. Settlers would start their journey on the banks of the Missouri River, passing through Kansas before turning north into Nebraska. Their journey took them through hundreds of miles of central and western Nebraska, including past Chimney Rock, the most noted landmark on the Oregon Trail's nearly 2,200 miles.

Oregon Trail Days has commemorated this pioneer history every year since 1921, when it started as a small, 1-day parade. Today, this festival has grown into a 4-day celebration that takes over the town of Gering in the Nebraska Panhandle for 1 weekend each July. Oregon Trail Days has something for everyone: Visitors can enjoy concerts, parades, an arts and crafts fair, sporting events, food shows, car exhibitions, and even a chili cook-off. This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and remember the adventurous spirit of the pioneers who settled our land, and who built strong communities for their families across Nebraska.

Mr. President, I am honored to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Oregon Trail Days here in the Senate. Here is to 100 more years of this beloved tradition.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAYIAVLAS

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a friend of mine and a great Ohioan, John Payiavlas, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

John was born in 1931 to Greek immigrants Anthony and Paraskevi Payiavlas in Warren, Oh. At the age of 20, he was drafted into the U.S. Army

and underwent basic training at Fort Riley in Kansas. In 1952, he was deployed to South Korea, where he joined U.N. forces in supporting South Korea as part of Fox Company, 7th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He later transferred to the Greek Expeditionary Force Battalion—one of four Greek Americans to serve in this battalion—and was awarded the Commander's Silver Cross of Valour for his exemplary service. He was honorably discharged in 1953 as sergeant first class.

John and his wife Marisa, who this year will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary, were married 3 years after John returned home to Ohio from the service. In 1960, John purchased a small company called Automatic Vendors, which later became a multimillion-dollar corporation known as AVI Foodsystems. Since its inception, AVI has served customers in more than 6,500 locations across the United States and has become the largest independently owned and operated contract food service company in the Nation. Currently, the company provides vending, institutional dining, and coffee service operations to companies across America.

Today, John Payiavlas runs the company alongside his children, Anthony and Patrice Kouvas. The Payiavlas family has made tremendous contributions to their community, including a generous gift of \$500,000 to Youngstown State University for their new sports media center. In 2006, John and his wife were honored with the Cleveland Clinic's Distinguished Fellow Award for their support of the clinic's initiatives, such as the Heart and Vascular Institute, the Taussig Cancer Center, and the Glickman Urological Institute.

John Payiavlas has received numerous accolades for his accomplishments. In 2000, John was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame of Northeast Ohio's Inside Business Magazine. In 2016, he was honored for his service in the Korean war with the Washington Oxi Day Foundation's Jaharis Service Award. In addition, John holds the highest honor in all Christendom for a lay person as an Archon Depoutatos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which dates back to the fourth century in the Greek Orthodox Church. The service and achievements of John Payiavlas extend well beyond the State of Ohio, and I applaud the lasting impact his success will have on our future generations.●

REMEMBERING KATHERINE AND ROBERT GARFF

• Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to the esteemed legacy of Katherine and Bob Garff, two maveriks whose towering achievements in business, politics, religion, and education will continue to benefit Utahns for generations. The Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce has recognized them with the prestigious and well-earned 42nd Giant in our City award.

Bob and Kathi's lifetime commitment to service is aspirational for all and worthy of the highest praise. Their community engagement efforts over many decades have transformed the automobile industry, expanded educational opportunities for young people with the Keys to Success and Road to Success programs, and their support to the University of Utah gave rise to new buildings for business education and athletics. Bob and Kathi's legacy is deeply woven into Utah's fabric of cherished values—prioritizing family, service, education, and the welfare of our future generations.

The Garff family's vast impact on our State is, in part, due to their willingness to serve in positions of leadership and public trust. Kathi served as chair of the Utah State Board of Education and was a board member for the Utah Board of Regents. She also guided education policy on the University of Utah's National Advisory Council, served on the board of the Crimson Club, and was chair of their President's Club.

Bob, too, donated his time to elevating health initiatives as a member of the American Cancer Society and Intermountain Healthcare and boosted Utah's athletic profile on the world stage as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. There, I witnessed firsthand Bob's talent for complex problem solving and his compassionate and ethical leadership. His accomplishments also include serving as chairman of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Deseret Book Company, a board member of First Security Bank, a member of the Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Utah Commission on Volunteers. As the former speaker of the House of Representatives for the State of Utah, Bob has cemented his legacy of consequential public service for all time.

A celebration of Bob and Kathi Garff would be incomplete without highlighting the significant role of faith in their lives, including their shared commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Over the years, Bob was called to serve as bishop, president of the England Coventry Mission, stake president at the University of Utah, and president of the Bountiful Temple. May his strong faith guide Bob as we remember and cherish his time with us.

Kathi and Bob's selfless contributions to the welfare of our State will endure through the ages, and Utahns will remember them for their lifetime commitment to public service. Their 5 children, 21 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren carry on the honorable tradition of their beloved Bob and Kathi Garff.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL A. SPRAYBERRY

● Mr. TILLIS. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael A.

Sprayberry, who is retiring as director of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, NCEM, and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, NCORR. Mr. Sprayberry has served North Carolina for over 42 years and has exemplified the highest standard of leadership, effectiveness, and professionalism, and I thank him for his valued service to our State.

Mr. Sprayberry was born in Atlanta, GA and moved to North Carolina in high school. He went on to serve our Nation in the U.S. Marine Corps and in the North Carolina National Guard for 11 years. In 1979, Mike received his bachelor of science in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He continued his education and received his master of arts degree in history.

Mike's entire career has been in service to his country and the State. During his years of service with the National Guard, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters and the North Carolina National Guard Distinguished Service Medal. He received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1998 and was inducted into the North Carolina National Guard's Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in August of 2011.

In 2005, Director Sprayberry began his career in emergency management as the deputy director and logistics chief. He served in this capacity until 2013, when he was appointed to serve as director under Governor Pat McCrory.

Mr. Sprayberry is the longest serving emergency management director in North Carolina's history. During his tenure, he successfully oversaw the State's response to 19 State declared disasters and 11 federally declared disasters. He has led North Carolina through hurricanes, earthquakes, winter storms, and a pandemic.

Mr. Sprayberry is nationally respected and has served as president of the National Emergency Management Association and is a member of the FEMA National Advisory Council.

Mr. President, thanks to Mike's leadership, North Carolina is better prepared to deal with both natural and man-made disasters. Please join me in thanking Director Mike Sprayberry, his wife, and his daughters for his career in public service and wishing him a joyful retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1161. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of eighteen (18) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general or major general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1162. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cellulose, ethyl ether; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10023-34-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1163. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act (ADA) and the Administration's disagreement that any ADA violations occurred; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1164. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1165. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1166. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order in order to expand the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001 with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1167. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Role of Supervisory Guidance" (RIN1557-AE80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1168. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Net Stable Funding Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards and Disclosure Requirements" (RIN1557-AD97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1169. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maine; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard and Negative Declaration for the Oil and Gas Industry for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards; Correction” (FRL No. 10024-76-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1170. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Second Maintenance Plan for the Tioga County Area” (FRL No. 10023-81-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1171. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to Air Pollution Control Rules; Regional Haze” (FRL No. 10024-54-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1172. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.189 Rev 4, ‘Fire Protection for Nuclear Power Plants’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1173. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.205 Rev 2, ‘Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Existing Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1174. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.101 Rev 6, ‘Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness for Nuclear Power Reactors’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1175. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Two Revised Sulfur Dioxide Rules for Lake County” (FRL No. 10024-65-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1176. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Florida; Maintenance Plan Update for the Hillsborough County Lead Area” (FRL No. 10024-49-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1177. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; Eastern Kern Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reclassification to Severe” (FRL No. 10024-58-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1178. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances (20-2.M)” (FRL No. 10022-76-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1179. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS; Correction” (FRL No. 10024-45-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1180. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-5.B)” (FRL No. 10018-77-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1181. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-6.B)” (FRL No. 10021-77-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1182. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-7.B)” (FRL No. 10021-85-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1183. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maine; Removal of Reliance on Reformulated Gasoline in the Southern Counties of Maine” (FRL No. 10024-50-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1184. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Erie Area” (FRL No. 10023-65-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1185. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “California: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions; Final Correction” (FRL No. 10023-58-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the

Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1186. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; San Diego County Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reclassification to Severe” (FRL No. 10024-30-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1187. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning with Reporting Year 2021” (FRL No. 10022-25-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1188. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revised Air Quality Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 10019-90-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1189. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information; Implementation of Vacatur” (FRL No. 10024-32-ORD) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2048. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2049. A bill to require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANFORD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2050. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2051. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for custom fabricated breast prostheses following a mastectomy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2052. A bill to prohibit biometric surveillance by the Federal Government without explicit statutory authorization and to withhold certain Federal public safety grants from State and local governments that engage in biometric surveillance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2053. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain Federally financed airport development projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen Federal-State partnerships in postsecondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2055. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and reform rules relating to investigations and whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2056. A bill to require agencies to notify the Director of the Office of Management and Budget when the agency suspends or terminates a Federal award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2057. A bill to appropriately limit the size of the population required for urban areas of metropolitan statistical areas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2058. A bill to improve the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2059. A bill to extend the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs on acceptance by the Department of donated facilities and related improvements; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2060. A bill to amend disclosure requirements of foreign gifts and contracts under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2061. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure coverage of mental health services furnished through telehealth; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2062. A bill to increase the security of United States rail infrastructure along the North American Interchange Service to the direct and indirect supply of U.S. military and related institutions, to facilitate cross-border trade among the United States, Mexico, or Canada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2063. A bill to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2064. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Clean Energy Victory Bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2065. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2066. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency revolving loan fund capitalization grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2067. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide procedures for national security exclusion from the United States of articles or components of articles that contain, were produced using, benefits from, or use trade secrets misappropriated or acquired through improper means by a foreign agent or foreign instrumentality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2068. A bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2069. A bill to expand the Medicaid certified community behavioral health clinic demonstration program and to authorize funding for additional grants to certified community behavioral health clinics; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2070. A bill to clarify that noncommercial species found entirely within the borders of a single State are not in interstate commerce or subject to regulation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or any other provision of law enacted as an exercise of the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2071. A bill to provide grants to States, territories, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and eligible Tribal entities to promote access to affordable, high-speed broadband and digital equity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 269. A resolution designating June 19, 2021, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 270. A resolution honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BARASSO):

S. Res. 271. A resolution affirming that the United States supports the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum and the Eastern Mediterranean gas pipeline; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 96

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 194

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide treatment for eating disorders for dependents of members of the uniformed services.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 282, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 406

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr.

ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 450, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 652, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grant Program to promote technological innovation in our Nation's communities.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 692, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 766

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 792

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 792, a bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 904

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming

(Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 904, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1362, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1388

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1388, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 1451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1451, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1452, a bill to require a standard financial aid offer form, and for other purposes.

S. 1488

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1488, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a basic needs allowance for low-income regular members of the Armed Forces.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure access to water and food for voters waiting in line at polling stations in Federal elections.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1669, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1707, a bill to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves a clean audit opinion on its financial statements.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1859

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1859, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary concerned to pay a member in the reserve component of an Armed Force a special bonus or incentive pay in the same amount as a member in the regular component of that Armed Force.

S. 1872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1872, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1907

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to provide Federal grants to publicly owned treatment works to implement such guidelines and standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1909, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform requirements with respect to direct and indirect remuneration under Medicare part D, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins and individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorder under Federal health programs and private health insurance, to ensure State and Federal protection for existing coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 2047

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen Federal-State partnerships in postsecondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

THE PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, most jobs require some kind of postsecondary credential, whether a certificate, an associate's or bachelor's degree, an advanced or professional degree, or an apprenticeship. Moreover, the workplace is changing with automation, artificial intelligence, and the so-called gig economy transforming the nature of work. These trends have only accelerated in the wake of the pandemic and its economic fallout. That is why I am proud to be introducing the bipartisan Partnerships for Affordability and Student Success (PASS) Act with my colleague, Senator COLLINS.

The pandemic has upended educational opportunities for this generation of students. Unlike previous economic downturns when college enrollment climbed, the National Student Clearinghouse is reporting the largest decline in college enrollment in over a decade, with low-income and community college students experiencing the sharpest declines. For too many Americans, postsecondary education seems increasingly risky or out of reach.

The Federal government cannot solve the crisis on its own. States are critical partners in making college accessible, affordable, equitable, and accountable. However, State funding for higher education is lower today than it was before the onset of the Great Recession. According to the latest State Higher Education Finance report published by the State Higher Education Executive Officers, public colleges and universities have become more reliant on tuition dollars for their operations. Today, in half of the States, tuition accounts for more than half of all higher education revenue. Moreover, the only Federal-State partnership program for need-based financial aid—the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) program—has not received appropriations since Fiscal Year 2010.

It is time to renew the Federal-State partnership for higher education, first enacted in 1972 on a bipartisan basis. The PASS Act will revitalize the Federal-State partnership through a for-

mula grant to States with a focus on need-based aid, grants to institutions to improve student outcomes and reduce college costs, and public accountability.

In exchange for this new Federal investment, States must make a commitment to maintain their investment in higher education and have a comprehensive plan for higher education with measurable goals for access, affordability, and student outcomes. At least half of the funding must be dedicated to need-based student financial aid. States also have the option of awarding grants to colleges and universities or partnerships between institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations to improve student outcomes, including enrollment, completion, and employment, and to develop innovative methods for reducing college costs. I am pleased to have the support of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Community College Trustees, and the Bipartisan Policy Center.

This generation is facing a crisis in college affordability and student loan debt. With the PASS Act, we seek to provide the resources and incentives for States to take more responsibility to address college affordability and student loan debt and improve student outcomes. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with them to include these and other key reforms in the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2057. A bill to appropriately limit the size of the population required for urban areas of metropolitan statistical areas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 2057

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Metropolitan Statistical Area Preservation Act”.

SEC. 2. POPULATION OF URBAN AREAS.

Section 3504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) In implementing subsection (e)(3), the Director—

“(1) shall not establish, for purposes of designating areas as metropolitan statistical areas, or any successor thereto, a minimum population for the urban area of such a metropolitan statistical area that is more than 50,000; and

“(2) may, only for statistical purposes, and in addition to the minimum population for urban areas described in paragraph (1), establish other statistical area designations with minimum population requirements for urban

areas that are higher than the minimum population for an urban area described in paragraph (1).”.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2058. A bill to improve the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill's purpose is to improve the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2058

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Service-member Safety and Security Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF MISSING PERSONS REPORTING.**—The Secretary of Defense shall instruct the Secretary of each military department to undertake a comprehensive review of the department's policies and procedures for reporting members of the Armed Forces absent without leave, on unauthorized absence, or missing.

(b) **REVIEW OF INSTALLATION-LEVEL PROCEDURES.**—The head of each military installation command shall—

(1) direct each military installation under its command to review its policies and procedures for carrying out the reporting activities described under subsection (a); and

(2) update such installation-level policies and procedures with a view towards force protection, enhanced security for members of the Armed Forces living on base, and prioritizing reporting at the earliest reasonable time to local law enforcement at all levels, and Federal law enforcement field offices with overlapping jurisdictions with military installations, when members are determined to be missing.

(c) **INSTALLATION-SPECIFIC REPORTING PROTOCOLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The commander of each military installation shall establish a protocol for sharing information with local and Federal law enforcement agencies about members of the Armed Forces that are absent without leave, on unauthorized absence, or missing. The protocol shall provide, by memorandum of understanding (MOU) or otherwise, for the commander to immediately notify all local and Federal law enforcement agencies with jurisdictions in the immediate area of the military installation when the status of a member assigned to such installation has been changed to absent without leave, on unauthorized absence, or missing.

(2) **REPORTING TO MILITARY INSTALLATION COMMAND.**—The commander of each military installation shall submit the protocol established pursuant to paragraph (1) to the relevant military installation command.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2021, AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 269

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 48 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2021, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 270—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW

Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 270

Whereas the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew (referred to in this preamble as the “Granite Mountain Hotshots”) was organized within the Prescott, Arizona, Fire Department;

Whereas the Granite Mountain Hotshots was originally formed in 2002 as a fuels mitigation crew, but later transitioned to a hotshot crew in 2008, becoming the first municipal hotshot crew in the United States;

Whereas the mission of the Granite Mountain Hotshots was to perform physically demanding fireline work in hazardous conditions, on difficult terrain, and in extreme heat;

Whereas, on June 28, 2013, lightning ignited the Yarnell Hill Fire on a ridge west of the community of Yarnell, Arizona;

Whereas, on June 30, 2013, 19 firefighters of the Granite Mountain Hotshots gave their lives battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in Yavapai County, Arizona, including—

(1) Eric Marsh, 43, who served as the superintendent of the Granite Mountain Hotshots;

(2) Jesse Steed, 36;

(3) Clayton Whitted, 28;

(4) Robert Caldwell, 23;

(5) Travis Carter, 31;

(6) Christopher MacKenzie, 30;

(7) Travis Turbyfill, 27;

(8) Andrew Ashcraft, 29;

(9) Joe Thurston, 32;

(10) Wade Parker, 22;

(11) Anthony Rose, 23;

(12) Garret Zupiger, 27;

(13) Scott Norris, 28;

(14) Dustin DeFord, 24;

(15) William “Billy” Warneke, 25;

(16) Kevin Woyjeck, 21;

(17) John Percin, Jr., 24;

(18) Grant McKee, 21; and

(19) Sean Misner, 26;

Whereas the Yarnell Hill Fire resulted in—

(1) the largest wildland firefighter loss of life in 80 years;

(2) the sixth deadliest firefighter tragedy in the history of the United States; and

(3) the greatest loss of life for fire services in the United States since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas, on July 9, 2013, thousands of people attended a memorial service held in Prescott Valley, Arizona, including then-Vice President Joseph R. Biden and representatives from more than 100 hotshot crews from across the United States; and

Whereas the memory of each fallen firefighter is honored at the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, which was dedicated in 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew of the Prescott, Arizona, Fire Department;

(2) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the surviving families of the 19 firefighters lost in the line of duty; and

(3) commends the bravery and sacrifice made by these fallen wildland firefighters in the service of their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—AFFIRMING THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN GAS FORUM AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN GAS PIPELINE

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BARASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 271

Whereas, on January 14, 2019, the representatives from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority convened in Cairo, Egypt to discuss establishing the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF);

Whereas, on December 20, 2019, the United States Congress passed the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116-94), which states it is the policy of the United States to promote and deepen energy security cooperation and development between Greece, Cyprus, and Israel and to support the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline;

Whereas, on January 2, 2020, Israel, Greece, and Cyprus signed an agreement to build an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline to connect the Eastern Mediterranean energy market to southern Europe;

Whereas, on January 16, 2020, Egypt hosted a forum with representatives of Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to finalize the framework for launching the EMGF;

Whereas, on September 23, 2020, the six member states of the EMGF held a signing ceremony that formally transformed the forum into a regional intergovernmental organization based in Cairo, Egypt;

Whereas, on December 16, 2020, the United Arab Emirates joined the EMGF and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said “the UAE will contribute to the forum’s activities to serve strategic interests and enhance cooperation and partnership between the forum countries”;

Whereas, on March 1, 2021, the EMGF Statute entered into force;

Whereas, on March 9, 2021, the EMGF accepted France as a member;

Whereas the United States and the European Union are permanent observers of the EMGF;

Whereas a vibrant regional gas market will promote prosperity and provide a sustainable path for economic development;

Whereas the EMGF promotes technical and market collaboration in energy, including by ensuring a competitive price for natural gas, the development of new energy technologies, and increased cooperation on cyber security;

Whereas the EMGF and the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline will provide European nations with robust energy alternatives and decrease reliance on the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States has been a steadfast supporter of the creation of the EMGF as well as the agreement between Israel, Greece, and Cyprus to support the completion of the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline;

Whereas Dan Brouillette, then-United States Secretary of Energy, notes the “im-

mense benefits that natural gas will bring to the region, but to growing markets around the world”;

Whereas Frank Fannon, then-United States Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, echoes that “energy resources are a catalyst for cooperation”;

Whereas George Lakkotrypis, then-Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus, said that “U.S. support in creating an Eastern Mediterranean corridor is profound and solid”;

Whereas Tarek El-Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt, stated, “The EMGF will be acknowledged throughout history as a unique and bold endeavor, since it aspires to become an exemption to the historic norm of perceiving our current and prospective energy wealth as a motivation for conflict”;

Whereas Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, stated that the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline “is a pipeline for peace and cooperation between the peoples of the region”;

Whereas Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Energy of the State of Israel, said the EMGF “brings regional cooperation with Arab and European countries, the first of its kind in history”;

Whereas Hala Zawati, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, stated, “Within the Eastern Mediterranean and utilizing our gas resources and infrastructure—cooperating and working together, given all the challenges, became a must. We believe that this platform will serve to enhance dialogue between countries to reach a clear regional vision, a vision that translates into policies for a sustainable regional gas market in the Eastern Mediterranean.”; and

Whereas the EMGF is part of a growing network of regional agreements and frameworks that provide the basis for long-term peace and cooperation on vital issues related to diplomatic engagement, collective security, economic growth, and energy development, including the Abraham Accords, signed on September 15, 2020, by the United States, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the establishment of the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum and congratulates the members for their success in building an international forum to advance Eastern Mediterranean energy;

(2) commends the members for demonstrating a commitment to multilateral cooperation leading to mutual economic and energy security;

(3) recognizes the historical significance of Jewish, Arab, and Christian peoples working together to advance prosperity and security within the region;

(4) notes the strategic importance of the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline in enhancing European energy security and decreasing reliance on Russian energy exports; and

(5) calls on all states to support the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum and the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OUTDOOR TOURISM, RECREATION & ECOTOURISM

The Subcommittee on Outdoor Tourism, Recreation & Ecotourism of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lt. Samuel Krakower, a U.S. Coast Guard fellow with my staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Fox nomination; further, that the cloture vote on the Griggsby nomination occur immediately following the cloture vote on the Fox nomination, and that if cloture is invoked on either nomination, the confirmation votes occur at 3:15 p.m. in the order that cloture was invoked; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:43 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

WILLIAM E. HOLLOWAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, VICE MARY B. VERNER, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM E. HOLLOWAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AMANDA HOWE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE CRAIG HOOKS, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PALOMA ADAMS-ALLEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE BONNIE GLICK.

ISOBEL COLEMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE JENNY A. MCGEE.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

JAVIER RAMIREZ, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR, VICE RICHARD GIACOLONE.

THE JUDICIARY

TOVAH R. CALDERON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF CO-

LUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE KATHRYN A. OBERLY, RETIRED.

KENIA SEOANE LOPEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE RONNA LEE BECK, RETIRED.

JIA M. COBB, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE EMMET G. SULLIVAN, RETIRED.

SARAH A.L. MERRIAM, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE JANET C. HALL, RETIRED.

SARALA VIDYA NAGALA, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE VANESSA LYNNE BRYANT, RETIRED.

FLORENCE Y. PAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, RESIGNING.

MYRNA PEREZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE DENNY CHIN, RETIRED.

OMAR ANTONIO WILLIAMS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE ALVIN W. THOMPSON, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. PAUL T. CALVERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL A. CHAMBERLAIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DONNA W. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. HALDANE B. LAMBERTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH A. DINONNO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL N. ADAME
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH R. BALDWIN
BRIG. GEN. RONALD W. BURKETT II
BRIG. GEN. HENRY S. DIXON
BRIG. GEN. JOHN J. DRISCOLL
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN W. GALLAGHER
BRIG. GEN. JOHN D. HAAS
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL K. HANIFAN
BRIG. GEN. SHAWN A. HARRIS
BRIG. GEN. JON M. HARRISON
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. JENKINS
BRIG. GEN. KIPPLING V. KAHLER
BRIG. GEN. MOSES KAOIWI, JR.
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN T. KING
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD J. LEBEL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. LEENEY
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. MERLINO
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. OSBORN
BRIG. GEN. ROGER A. PRESLEY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JERRY F. PROCHASKA
BRIG. GEN. JAVIER A. REINA
BRIG. GEN. ADAM R. SILVERS
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WINSLOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. BOYETTE
BRIG. GEN. JIMMIE L. COLE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAMIAN K. WADDELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK G. ALESSIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROSE P. KERAVUORI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARK T. SIMERLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. HOLLAND
COL. KEVIN W. LOCHTEFELD
COL. CRISTINA M. MOORE
COL. BRIAN H. PFARR
COL. WARNER A. ROSS II
COL. CHAD E. STONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DEREK L. ADAMS
COL. ANDREW C. ANDERSON
COL. TROY E. ARMSTRONG
COL. FREDERICK W. BATES V
COL. LAVETTA L. BENNETT
COL. JAMES W. BIBB
COL. JOHN B. BOWLIN
COL. SEAN T. BOYETTE
COL. FELICIA BROKAW
COL. STEPHEN M. BURGGRAFF
COL. JELORA J. COMAN
COL. DAVID A. DAILEY
COL. MARLENA A. DECELLE
COL. JONATHAN S. EBBERT
COL. JONATHAN J. ERICKSON
COL. MICHAEL D. EVANS
COL. TOD M. FENNER
COL. RICHARD D. FERGUSON
COL. ROBERT J. FERRY, JR.
COL. JAMES R. FIDLER
COL. GLENN H. FINCH
COL. GREGORY D. FIX
COL. RODNEY K. GINTER
COL. JOSEPH W. GREEN
COL. JEFFREY S. HACKETT
COL. KEVIN T. HAMM
COL. SCOTT J. HARTMAN
COL. DENNIS R. HAWTHORNE
COL. JAMISON A. HERRERA
COL. CRAIG A. HOLAN
COL. MICHAEL A. HONEYCUTT
COL. JOSEPH A. HOPKINS III
COL. ROBERT W. HUGHES, JR.
COL. JOSEPH M. HUSS
COL. MICHAEL A. IZZO
COL. STEPHEN P. JONES
COL. MICHAEL J. KARWATKA
COL. CLAYTON E. KUETEMEYER
COL. JOHN D. LAING
COL. JOSEPH D. LEAR
COL. TOMMY C. LEEPER
COL. DEBRA K. LIEN
COL. JUSTIN L. MANN
COL. DAVID D. MCGRAW, JR.
COL. CHRIS A. MCKINNEY
COL. ELIZABETH B. MCCLAUGHLIN
COL. ALEXANDER V. MCLEMORE
COL. KEVIN D. MCMAHAN
COL. RICHARD F. MIFSUD II
COL. JOE H. MILLER II
COL. LOUIS B. MILLIKAN
COL. ROBERT A. MITCHELL
COL. PATRICK R. MONAHAN
COL. JOHN D. MORGEN
COL. JASON P. NELSON
COL. JEFFREY A. NORRIS
COL. ROBERT W. O'CONNELL
COL. PAUL S. PETERS
COL. MICHAEL S. PEYERL
COL. DAVID M. PIDONE
COL. JOHN R. PIPPY
COL. JAMES A. REED
COL. MILLARD G. REEDY IV
COL. MOSES P. ROBINSON II
COL. ROBERT J. RODGERS
COL. GARY A. ROPERS
COL. WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
COL. STEVEN M. ROWE
COL. EDITH C. SAILOR
COL. PAUL W. SCHNEIDER
COL. LELAND T. SHEPHERD
COL. DOUGLAS L. SIMON
COL. JEFFERY M. SMITH
COL. PATRICK D. STAPLETON
COL. MATTHEW J. STRUB
COL. JONATHAN M. STUBBS
COL. TYSON Y. TAHARA

COL. TIMOTHY J. TOMCHO
COL. JAMES H. TREECE
COL. BENJAMIN S. VALENTINE
COL. JEFFREY WATKINS
COL. DENISE L. WILKINSON
COL. GERARD B. WILLIAMS II
COL. TERI D. WILLIAMS
COL. TIMOTHY A. WOOD
COL. MATTHEW S. WOODRUFF

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MAX G. MCCOY, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. WILLIAM R. MERZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8088:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DARSE E. CRANDALL, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRANCIS D. MORLEY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JEANNETTE M. WATTERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

JASON O. ALLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

CONNIE IRENE ARMSTRONG
JOSHUA DAVID ARMSTRONG
IGNACIO ALFREDO ASSAF
ROXELLEN ANTOINETT AULETTO
NELS C. BARNER
DANIELLE J. BARRASS
BRETT MATTHEW BATICK
DARREN PAUL BEMIS
KEITH ROBERT BENKO
MICHAEL J. BERENS
LEE RYAN BOUMA
ELIZABETH ANNE K. BRIENZA
MICHELLE MARIE BUONOME
ROSE CALARRUDO
JEFFREY DONALD CANNET
ADAM MICHAEL CARLSON
JAN R. CARLSON
FRANK VICTOR CASAVANT
EDUARDO CASTANEDA, JR.
CARISSA LYNN CHRISTENSEN
GEORGE ANDREW CHRISTOPH
JENNIFER BETH CINQMARS
CHRISTOPHER ALLEN CLOUTIER
COLLIN PATRICK COATNEY
DAVID P. COOPER
KENT J. CRANE
CHRISTOPHER P. CULLEN
LESLIE S. DAVIDSON
ANTHONY S. DAVIS
KRISTIN TERESE DEJARLAIS
CHRISTOPHER M. DOMITROVICH
ARTIS AARON DOUGLASS
BENJAMIN ALEXANDER DOYLE
MICHAEL PAUL DUNYAK
BRENT D. DUPPER
JOHN CHARLES EASLEY
NICHOLAS EMILE FERNANDO
STEPHANIE STINE FIGUEROA
PHILIP O. FORLENZA
CHAD DOUGLAS FORREST
JASON PRYCE FOSTER
K JUSTIN JACK GALLI
CHRISTOPHER ANDREW GAMBLE
ASHELLEIGH OTTOBONI GELLNER
MATTHEW JUSTIN GOETTEN
TIMOTHY W. GRADY
BRIAN JOEL GUNDERSON
MICHELLE I. HAGEL
JESSICA L. HASTINGS
EMILE HUGO HAWKINS, SR.
JASON M. HORN
RYAN COWAN HURT

JAY PHILLIP JACKSON
JOHN D. JIMENEZ
JAMES EDWARD JONES
THOMAS MICHAEL KELLY
GLENN ALLYN KING
MATTHEW WESTON KOPP
GARY T. LAUBACH
JAMES THOMAS LAYTON, JR.
JOSEPH WILLIAM LEONARD
BRIAN DANIEL LEPINE
MITCH ALLEN LONG
STEVEN M. LOWENSTEIN
ANTHONY KEITH MAREK
CHARLES C. MERKEL
SELICIA M. MITCHELL
EUGENE RUPERT MOZZONI
AMY ZIEGLER MUNDELL
TERI D. NEELY
JAMES MONTI OAKSFORD
THOMAS ALBERT OBROCHTA
RONALD WILLIAM OLIVER
TREVOR JUSTIN ORSINGER
DONALD RAYMOND OSHELL, JR.
KARL OSCAR PALMBERG
MICHAELA ANN PARSEL
DILLON R. PATTERSON
MARGARET PICCOLO
JHONNY A. POLANCO
MARK RALPH PRETE
THOMAS A. PRIES
RYAN W. RICHARDSON
KIMBERLY D. RIZO
JAMES P ROTH II
THOMAS LAWRENCE SALSBUURY
LYNN KATE SAMMS
JOSEPH DONALD SANDUK
JOEL DONALD SATTAZAHN
CHRISTINA M. SCHMOKER
JOHN CHARLES SCOTT
DAVID JASON SHATTLIS
JEFFREY B. SHAW
WILLIAM J. SHNOWSKE
JENNIFER L. SILBERNAGEL
RICHARD S. SMITH
SUZANNE R. SMITH
WILLIAM NATHANERR SMITH
JEREMY ALAN SPARKS
THOMAS PATRICK STAUFFER
SANDRA DENISE STOQUERT
NATASHA SMITH TAYLOR
NEIL MICHAEL THEISEN
KIPP N. THOMPSON
ERIC ALLEN UNDERHILL
ADAM JAMES VERNADAKIS
BRIAN ANTHONY VITETTA
LEAH VIOLET VOELKER
JOSEPH PAUL WALTER
LISA G. WEAVER
TANYA ANNE WEHRLI
SAMUEL S. WILSON
KEVIN S. YOKLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID R. EVANS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

NICOLLETTE A. DENNIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

WALDO D. GALAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROGER W. DODSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHASE D. CRABTREE
TRAVIS H. OWEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DONALD A. VACHA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL E. LANE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TIMOTHY J. REDHAIR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be major

BRYCE E. LIVINGSTON
GREGORY K. PERSLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

MARIA I. BRUTON
JOVITTA CHANDLER
ROBERT L. CORSON
PAMELA A. DIPATRIZIO
GEOFFREY W. DUNCKLEE
KEVIN A. GOKE
KENNETH R. GORE
JAMES B. HACKER
TODDY F. INGRAM
JAMES C. KESLER
MARY M. MARAN
PATRICK R. MARLOW
JOSHUA D. PAUL
DANIELLE K. RONDONI
GERRY P. SHARP
PAUL J. SINQUEFIELD
GUY G. STLOUIS
CATHERINE C. TO
CHRISTOPHER A. VANFOSSON
LATONYA R. WALKER
JESSICA J. WHALEY
YOUNG J. YAUGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

RYAN S. BIBLE
FRANK C. BLAKE
KYLE P. BOURQUE
AARON J. BRAXTON II
CHRISTINA M. BUCHNER
PAUL B. CARBY
KATHLEEN M. CHUNG
CHARLES L. DOUGLAS
LIQUORI L. ETHERIDGE
SCOTT M. FARLEY
JASON B. FAULKENBERRY
SAMUEL L. FRICKS
MATTHEW C. GEIMAN
ELIZABETH R. GUM
TERESA S. HINNERICHS
JASON W. HUGHES
ALISHA F. HUTSON
ALBERT E. KINKEAD
MARA KREISHMANDEITRICK
PAUL D. LANG
ANTHONY J. MARINOS
JASON R. MATHRE
JAY A. MCFARLAND
DARRYL M. METCALF
JOHN T. NUCKOLS
MARY I. RIVERACOLON
KARA E. SCHMID
DONALD W. SEXTON
JOHN W. TAYLOR
RYAN D. TRUMBO
JAMA D. VANHORNSEALY
APRIL R. VERLO
JASON C. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

AVERY J. CARNEY
RANDOLPH S. HARRISON
NICHELLE A. JOHNSON
LISA N. KONITZER
KANE D. MORGAN
CHRISTOPHER C. PASE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

ROBIN L. BURKE
MATTHEW A. LEVINE
JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

BRENTON A. ARIHOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TRACY R. NORMAN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JACLYN N. URSO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

PAUL J. GOGUEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BENJAMIN E. BARR

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KELLY L. BYRNE
SEAN P. CAULFIELD
WESTON R. COBY
STEPHEN M. FLEET
THOMAS M. FREISMUTH, JR.
JESSICA A. GARRETT
DAVID J. LORFELD
CHRISTOPHER J. MERRIAM
AARON M. MORRONE
THOMAS P. NEWMAN
RICHARD B. RAINER
NICOLAAS A. VERHOEVEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JOHN A. ALLEN
LANCE A. ALT
MILES G. ALVAREZ
JOSHUA M. ANGICHODO
PETER D. BARKLEY
MARK J. BERGEM
DAVID W. COURTNEY
BRIAN C. DEMBINSKI
JOSHUA J. DUGAN
ADAM M. FARBER
NATHANIEL J. HAYES
NICHOLAS F. JENSEN
KYLE E. MILLER
NATHANIEL S. NEWSOM
STEPHANIE R. PENDINO
ALEXIS M. POSPISCHIL
SHELLEY D. PULLIAM
RICHARD H. PYFROM
DANIEL S. RHAME, JR.
ALEXANDER RIOS
MICHAEL A. SCHMIDT
ROBERT S. STEWART
CAMERON R. THOMAS
TIMBERON C. VANZANT
BRADLEY J. WILLIFORD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JORDAN M. ADLER
FRANK P. AGCAOILI
LAQUIDA R. BARNETT
GILBERT R. BAUGHN
RHETT Z. BEGLEY
QUINZELL T. BROWN
RICHARD H. BURTON
CHARLES M. CASTEVENS
JOSHUA C. DENNIS
CHARLES S. E. ELLIOTT
BRIAN C. FIELDS
VANESSA I. FORREST
STEPHEN N. GAETKE
BRYAN K. HARRIS
JOSEPH K. HELKER
BRUCE W. HILL
BRUCE L. HUNT
ELIZABETH E. HUNTOON
BRIAN J. LEE
JEREMY V. LIVINGSTON
SCOTT A. LUDWIG
GREGORY S. MILLER
DANIEL S. MINTZER
JIMMY J. PAVELKA
JACK L. SHIS
JOHN R. VANASSCHE
RYAN T. WADINGTON
CHRISTOPHER D. WEDDELL
BRIAN P. WORDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KYLE C. BACHMAN
CANDACE M. BRUEGEMAN
JUSTINE A. CACCAMO
KENNY L. CASWELL
RHIANNON L. CROTHERS
WESLEY R. CURTIS
JAMES A. FOX, JR.
MICHAEL C. GARTNER
REBEKAH D. GERBER
JASON K. GREGOIRE

KEVIN A. HOADLEY
ADAM P. HUDSON
RICHARD F. JENSEN
DANE E. JOHNSON
DANIEL G. KERN
KEVIN N. LAMPING
KURTIS A. LOBAUGH
ABBY K. LORFELD
DANIEL W. MCILVAINE
TOLULOE E. OBRIEN
AMY E. PEEBLES
DAVID J. RIVERA
SAMUEL M. ROBERTS
CAROLINE M. SEIDER
GREGORY R. STORWICK
ANTONIO R. SWAIN
GEORGE T. WHITTLE
ROSS E. WOLTJER
MICHAEL B. ZIMET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ASHLEY S. M. MCABEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ANTONIO BARCELOS, JR.
WILLIAM M. BARKSDALE
JASON L. BLICKENS
ADAM D. CHAMBERS
QUENTIN M. COOPER
MICHAEL W. EFIRD
TODD M. GRAHEK
JEFFERY D. HANSON
MICHAEL J. HARMON
JASON R. HINKLEY
TODD A. KAMINS
ART K. PALALAY
RICARDO M. TOVAR
ALFRED J. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHRISTOPHER M. ANCTIL
ERIC D. BROOKS
JAMES B. GALLAGHER
ROGER L. HEGGS, JR.
MATTHEW G. LAWRENCE
ANTHONY W. OXENDINE, JR.
JEFFREY T. SMITH
MARVIN L. WILSON
ALAN W. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JEMAR R. BALLESTEROS
GALO A. CAVALCANTI
CLINTON T. CERALDE
RYAN T. DAILEY
MICHAEL R. DICKENSON
JAMIE P. DRAGE
DAVID A. HOOPER
SUZANNE L. HOPKINS
RICHARD A. JARCHOW, JR.
EMILY A. LAPP
KYRA D. LASSITER
CHRISTOPHER Z. MATTHEWS
ERIK E. MOSS
RYAN C. ROELING
EVITA M. SALLES
TIMOTHY S. SHAFFER
JEROD A. TABER
ADAM P. WALSKI
EMILY K. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MARCO A. ACOSTA
BRANDON J. ADAMS
THOMAS M. ADAMS
RAYMOND J. AHAUS
RICHARD A. ALI
STANLEY E. ALLEN, JR.
JONATHAN R. ALLMOND
JOSEPH J. AMES
VERONICA A. ANDERSON
AARON M. ANDERSON
JONANDREW D. ANDERSON
TOY W. ANDREWS
JAMES A. ANGEL
CHRISTINA C. APPLEMAN
ANTHONY S. ARDITO
RAYMOND B. AUBUCHON
MICHAEL J. AUSTIN
DEREK L. BADER
RAYMOND T. BALL, JR.
JAMES R. BARBER III
VICTOR A. BARGER
TIMOTHY S. BARRY
JOHN J. BARTIS
BRUCE BATTESON
JASON R. BAUMANN
CALVIN S. BEADS

TODD M. BEATTY
ROBERT T. BENEDICT
MATTHEW P. BENNETT
ANDREA L. BENVENUTO
STEVEN B. BETTIS
KEITH A. BIERMAN
BRIAN T. BITTNER
MATHEW K. BLANDIN
DAVID S. A. BLAS
CARL R. BLAZEK
PAIGE M. BLOK
TIMOTHY J. BOSTON
VINCENT A. BOVE
QUINCY L. BOWLES
TYRCHRA A. J. BOWMAN
RYAN J. BRACK
MATTHEW R. BRADEN
PATRICK J. BRAY
TIMOTHY E. BREEN
ANDREW M. BRETT
WILLIAM R. BRIDGES
MATHEW BRIDWELL
JOSEPH M. BRISCO, JR.
BRANT J. BROCK
BENJAMIN A. BROOKS
JANET M. BROOME
BERRY T. BROWN
MICHAEL R. BROWN
THOMAS M. BROWN
ANTHONY T. BRYANT
JORDAN A. BRYE
MICHAEL BUBULKA
AMANDA K. BURD
CAMERON J. BURNETTE
SCOTT B. BURRILL
JASON M. BURROUGHS
ERIC BURTNERAHT
JOHNATHON S. BUSS
LISA M. BYDAIRK
JOHN A. CALDECUTT
JOSHUA C. CALLIHOU
SHAWN R. CALLIHAN
BRETT S. CAMERON
JESSICA CAMERON
DAVID M. CAMP
ASHLEY H. CARLINE
ANDREW D. CARLSON
TODD W. S. CARLSON
JEREMY K. CARROLL
DAVID H. CARTER
KASEY W. CARTER
KEVIN J. CARTER
MICHAEL W. CARTER
PATRICK C. CASHIN
ROBERT J. CASTOR, JR.
AARON J. CASTRO
MICHAEL M. CATALANO
JOHN J. CHESTER, JR.
MICHAEL D. CHRISTOPH
JASON CHUMA
ANDRE D. CLEVELAND
JOHN W. COLEMAN III
DEIRDRE E. COLLINS
DAVID A. COOK
RUSSELL J. COOK
AMANDO S. COPE, JR.
BENJAMIN J. CORDLE
BETTINA J. CORY
WILLIAM D. COUTS
JOSHUA W. DAFFRON
JEREMIAH M. DALEY
ROBERT J. DALTON
JOHN D. DAMON
WILLIAM E. DANN
ANDREW C. DARJANY
DANIEL E. DAVIS
SCOTT T. DEARDEN
MICHAEL E. DEBOER
MICHAEL K. DELOACH
LOUIS E. DEMARCO
BRIAN R. DEMELL
HEATHER S. DENT
ERIK A. DENTE
RENATO A. DEPAOLIS
BENJAMIN A. DESMOND
ROBERT J. DIBERN
ANDREW J. DIETZEL
TREY J. DITTBERNER
RYAN A. DORN
LANE R. DRUMMOND
PATRICK L. DUNN
DAVID P. ECKARDT
BRETT N. ECKERT
SEAN N. EDWARDS
MARK D. EISBRENNER II
DOUGLAS S. ELKINS
DEREK W. ESCALANTE
FREDERICK K. ESPY
ASHLEY J. FAIRES
TARA A. FEHER
JONATHAN C. FEINS
DANIAL L. FICKLING
COLIN P. FINNEGAN
TIMOTHY FITZGERALD, JR.
JENNIFER S. FLEMING
GRAHAM D. FLETTERICH
MICHAEL W. FLICK
ROBERT J. FLOYD II
ROBERT L. FOSTER
MASON B. FOX
MICHAEL W. FRITTS
TODD M. GALVIN
MATTHEW R. GARCIBRAGIEL
DANIEL E. GARDNER
DALLAS C. GATES
DANIEL M. GAUVIN
ANDREW T. GAY

JAMES W. GELSINON
 SEAN A. GENIS
 EKON A. GEORGE
 MARK A. GEORGE
 ANDREW P. GIACOMUCCI
 NAOTOMO K. GIBSON
 JAMES E. GILES
 PAUL A. GILLET
 JOHN W. GILLIGAN
 ALEXANDER D. GLASS
 JASON A. GOELLER
 MARK R. GORDON
 JAMES J. GORMLEY III
 MICHAEL J. GOSSETT
 TOMAS A. GRADO
 MEGHAN C. GRAY
 JONATHAN B. GREENWALD
 GRANT D. J. GRENWELL
 STEVEN E. GREY, JR.
 RYAN M. GRUNDT
 BRIAN A. GUEST
 CHAD J. GUILLERAULT
 JOHN M. GUTIERREZ
 PATRICK T. GUTIERREZ
 ALEX HALBERSTADT
 MATHEW J. HALFERTY
 CHARLES R. HALL
 JEREMY S. HALL
 RICHARD M. HALL
 BRUCE D. HALLETT
 KYLE D. HANFORD
 HURSEL B. HANKS
 JIMMY A. HARMON
 JASON S. HARREL
 BRIAN M. HARRINGTON
 ANTHONY M. HARRIS
 NICHOLAS R. J. HAUBRICH
 ALEX W. HAUP
 MITCHELL J. HAYS
 MATTHEW A. HEADLEY
 JASON H. HEATH
 STEPHEN W. HEDRICK
 TIMOTHY P. HENKEN
 MATTHEW M. HENRICH
 MATTHEW A. HEPFINGER
 ERIC R. HERNANDEZ
 AUDREY L. HERRINGTON
 JONATHAN W. HIGHTOWER
 JESSICA L. HILL
 JAMES F. HINDS
 CHRISTOPHER M. HIRONAGA
 JONATHAN L. HIRSCH
 JASON F. HOCH
 THOMAS J. HOFFMAN
 JEFFREY R. HOGAN
 BRYCE C. HOLDEN
 BRENT J. HOLLOWAY
 BRADLEY C. HOLMES
 MARCUS A. HOOGWIND
 DAVID A. HOOPENGARDNER, JR.
 CHRISTOPHER L. HORNUNG
 GUILLERMO H. HOWELL
 ANDREW HOWERTON
 MICHAEL J. HUMARA
 DAVID P. HUSCHER
 CHRISTOPHER D. IVEY
 ANDREW N. JAEGER
 JEREMY R. JANNEY
 AARON JEFFERSON III
 RONALD JENKINS
 MICHAEL T. JENNINGS
 ALAN J. JOHNSON
 DAMIAN M. JOHNSON
 JEREMIAH A. JOHNSON
 KYLE A. JOHNSON
 ROBERT A. JOHNSON
 MARVIN L. JOSEPH
 JESSE A. JOYCE
 SEAN M. JURGENSEN
 BRITTANY B. KALUSCAK
 JONATHAN R. KANE
 FARROKH K. KAPADIA
 KENNETH E. KAPF
 MAGDALENA M. KEEL
 JOHN G. KETH
 THOMAS L. KELLNER
 PETER J. KELLY
 RYAN P. KELLY
 JOSH R. KEMPINSKI
 SHANECE L. KENDALL
 JOHN P. KENNEDY
 JEFFREY R. KINGSLAND
 SEAN M. KINNEY
 MARK S. KLEIN
 JAMES P. KOBRYA
 JAMESROBERT C. KOFFI
 JOHN E. KOHUT
 ANNA M. KOPP
 RUSSELL A. KRATOVILLE, JR.
 CHARLES R. KREUZ
 KEITH R. KROUCHICK
 JOSHUA K. LAIL
 PATRICK J. LAKUSTA
 ANDREW J. LAWRENCE
 MOLLY L. LAWTON
 BRETT H. LEARNER
 ROBERT V. LEE
 MATTHEW B. LEES
 BRIAN LEGARE
 FRANKLIN LEMENE
 SCOTT M. LESCENSKI
 LUIS A. LEVINE
 MATTHEW R. LEWIS
 JOSEPH T. LILES
 MYRON E. LIND
 CAMERON M. LINDSAY
 LEIGH K. LOESEL

CATHERINE S. LONG
 AUSTIN M. LONG IV
 STEWART C. LONG
 WILLIAM P. LOONEY
 JEREMY A. LORD
 NOLAN D. LUCAS
 TODD M. J. LUCHT
 BERNARD W. LUTZ
 SARAH K. LYNCH
 BENJAMIN S. MACNEIL
 JACOB M. MADDOX
 LOUIS S. MAJERCHIN
 DAVID MANGES
 HERU K. MANSELL
 SETH J. MARCUSA
 WILLIAM L. MARDEN
 TIMOTHY S. MARSHALL
 ANDREW J. MARTIN
 JONATHAN R. MARTIN
 MARK MARTIN
 LUIS G. MARTINEZ
 MICHELLE M. MARTINEZ
 KYLE C. MASON
 CAMERON H. MASSEY
 MARK J. MATKOVICH
 BENJAMIN A. MATTES
 MICHELLE A. MATTHEWS
 ZACHARY A. MATTHEWS
 CHARLES E. MATYKIEWICZ
 ROBERT W. MAUL
 JONATHAN R. MAURUS
 JAMES M. MAXWELL
 MICHAEL T. MCARAW
 FRANK A. MCBRIDE
 RYAN W. MCBRIDE
 MICHAEL J. MCBRYAR
 NOAH L. MCBURNETT
 VINCENT M. MCCALL
 BRENT W. MCCAMMON
 PATRICK M. MCCASKEY
 JAMESON D. MCCOY
 DAMON C. MCCULLAR
 ANDREW P. MCDONALD
 RYAN O. MCGOLDRICK
 BRENDAN J. MCGUNIGLE
 TYLER P. MCKNIGHT
 JAMES S. MCNAMEE
 PRECIOUS S. W. MCQUADE
 FRANK K. MCQUIDDY
 RUBEN A. MEDALLA, JR.
 RENE J. MEDRANO
 MICHAEL A. MELENDEZ
 JOSHUA W. MERDES
 WILLIAM A. MEYER
 JOSHUA A. MEYERS
 ANTONIA E. MCGIGINS
 BENJAMIN O. MILLER
 JOSHUA B. MILLER
 SCOTT R. MILLER
 JEFFERY A. MILOTA
 GREGORY A. MISCHLER
 NATHAN W. MITCHELL
 DANIEL E. MITZNER
 ROBERT W. MIZE
 SAMUEL A. MOFFETT
 WILLIAM H. MOHR
 ROBERT J. MOLINARO
 JACOB M. MONTOYA
 PATRICK J. MOORE
 JAIME A. MORENO
 DAVID H. MORGAN
 ADAM P. MOSLEY
 NICHOLAS E. MUNN
 WILLIAM P. MURPHY
 DOUGLAS V. NASSIF
 ADAM H. NEBENZAHL
 ADAM H. NELSON
 JONATHAN NELSON
 JOSEPH V. NEPOMUCENO
 MICHAEL G. NIEMI
 JONATHAN T. NODA
 JOEL C. NOGLE
 MACK T. NOLEN, JR.
 JAKUB NOWAKOWSKI
 PRESTON J. OCHOA
 MATTHEW J. O'CONNELL
 MATTHEW S. O'LOUGHLIN
 BRYAN M. ORLOWSKI
 TIMOTHY J. ORTH
 BRANDON M. OSWALD
 JOSHUA A. OVERN
 MATTHEW D. PAINTER
 JASON C. PALLOTTA
 TRAVIS W. PANTALEO
 JASON D. PARADIS
 JASON R. PATTON
 GREGORY A. PAULUS
 RYAN K. PECK
 BRAD E. PENLEY
 SCOTT C. PENNOYER
 LUKE W. PENROSE
 ROBERT W. PERRIS
 KENNETH J. PETKUNAS
 RYAN D. PETTEPHER
 JOSEPH D. PHILLIPS
 GREGORY J. PIORUN, JR.
 RONALD M. PYRAMIDE
 MCKENZIE S. PLANK
 ANDREW J. PLUMB
 WALTER G. POINT
 SETH K. POWELL
 KENNETH J. PRINDLE
 MICHAEL L. PTACEK
 JOHN J. PUCKETT
 CHRISTOPHER T. RAGSDALE
 JAKE L. RANKINEN
 TERRA A. REBER

MIGUEL E. RECALDE
 ANDREW J. RECAMÉ
 GARY A. REDMAN
 DANA E. REEVES
 ANDREW REGALADO
 PATRICK J. REILLY
 BENJAMIN L. REUST
 JOSE J. REYES
 PAUL R. REYES
 JERARDO J. REYNA
 SEAN P. RICE
 ROBERT F. RICHARDS
 STEPHEN P. RICHTER
 KEVIN L. RINGELSTEIN
 PAUL C. RITTER
 RICHARD R. RIVAS
 BRETT P. ROBBLEE, JR.
 ALEXANDER B. RODECK
 DANIEL E. ROGERS
 DANIEL R. ROGERS
 BRENDAN K. ROK
 JORGE E. ROLDAN
 DYLAN B. ROSS
 JEFFREY A. ROSS
 MARK G. ROSTEDT
 BENJAMIN ROTHENBURG
 MATTHEW N. RYAN
 JOHN M. SADLER
 JASON M. SAKASH
 MARTIN A. SALAZAR
 CHRISTOPHER M. SALLIOTTE
 SHANE A. SALVATORE
 JOSEPH W. A. SAMMUR
 ANDREW B. SAMPLE
 JOSE SANCHEZ, JR.
 LAURA B. SANTIAGO
 KARL Q. SAULT
 JUSTIN J. SCHADE
 RANDALL G. SCHIMPF
 BRANT H. SCHMALL
 ROBERT S. SCHMIDT
 JARED A. SCHMITT
 CHRISTOPHER M. SCHNAPPINGER
 JOHN C. SCHNEPPER
 JASON A. SCHRIMP
 KARL A. SCHROEDER
 PETER C. SCHUNK
 LUCAS R. SCRUBY
 CRAIG K. SEARLES
 CHRISTOPHER D. SEDLAK
 JOHN H. SEEBODE
 MATTHEW C. SEIBERT
 JOHN G. SHAFFO
 PATRICK D. SHOVLIN
 PHILIP B. SHRADER
 DAVID K. SHULTZ
 JEREMIAH S. SHUMWAY
 JOSHUA J. SILVA
 RICHARD P. SILVA, JR.
 RONALD R. SIMMONS, JR.
 JOSEPH B. SIMS
 STEPHEN J. SKAHEN, JR.
 ELLIOTT P. SKILES
 MICHAEL D. SLEDGE
 ERIK T. SMITH
 JOSHUA M. SMITH
 KELLEN L. SMITH
 LEX A. SMITH
 LYNNWOOD C. SMITH
 MICHAEL F. SMITH
 SARAH M. SMITH
 DEVIN T. SNIDER
 RYAN L. SOLOMON
 CHARLES C. SONNTAG
 MATTHEW W. SPENCE
 JEFFREY W. SPENCER
 JASON W. SPRAY
 KATRINA L. STEGNER
 NATHAN A. STEIN
 DARIN L. STOCKMAN
 ALBERT J. STORRS
 ANDREW T. STREENAN
 KALE B. STREETER
 MICHAEL G. STRITTMATTER
 DAVID S. SWIMM
 AARON N. SZECHTMAN
 EARVIN M. TAYLOR
 KEVIN F. TAYLOR
 SCOTT J. TEDRICK
 KARI J. TEREICK
 KYLE L. TERWILLIGER
 JAMES G. THOMAS
 ANDREW E. TIMPNER
 ANDREW W. TOM
 BRENDAN T. TOWER
 JOSEPH R. TRAGER
 CLINTON K. TURNER
 KYLE R. VANDEGRIF
 TROY H. VANTREASE
 BRIAN M. VIETHS
 VAUGHN A. VILLARREAL
 JOSHUA R. VIRGADAMO
 JONATHAN M. VOLKLE
 DANIEL E. VROMAN
 ADAM B. WAGLER
 JOHN W. WALKER
 LEIF E. WALROTH
 BLAKE M. WANIER
 TIMOTHY R. WARBURTON
 MATTHEW P. WARNECKE
 JOHN F. WARNER III
 JUSTIN M. WASH
 TIMOTHY C. WASHBURN
 BRAD C. WEILAND
 GRETCHEN M. WENDT
 CHRISTOPHER A. WENZEL
 JAROD B. WHEELER

JEREMY W. WHEELIS
CURTIS W. WHITE
ROOSEVELT B. WHITE, JR.
JEREMIAH W. WIESNER
NATHAN W. WILKINSON
JONATHAN C. WILLIAMS
MATTHEW R. WILLIAMSON
FRANK D. WILLIS, JR.
CALEB P. WINES
EVAN R. WOLFE
JEREMY D. WOODALL
CHARLES D. WORKMAN II
BRYON T. YAMAJI
CHRISTOPHER H. YATES
CHARLES W. YEARGIN
JENNIFER M. YEDONI
ROGER L. YOUNG
JONATHAN M. ZANG
DAVID E. ZIEROTH
JOHN G. ZILAI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

SUNG H. AHN
WARREN H. C. BONG
KERRY N. BOSCHE
STEPHAN C. BROCK
BRENTON N. CAMPBELL
CHRISTINA D. CARINO
GREGORY A. CASKEY
CHRISTOPHER R. DEIGEL
SJAAK A. DEVLAMING
TIMOTHY J. EMGE II
MARK A. EWACHIW, JR.
SAVANNAH L. GILL
BENJAMIN L. HALL
JOHN M. HALLWORTH
KRISTINE Y. C. HIME
MARISSA C. HOBBS
DANIEL D. C. HUYNH
ARTURO JACINTO II
PUYAN A. KHESHTI
TIMOTHY D. KUBISAK
ADRIAN S. LANEY
CHRISTOPHER G. MACLEAN
REBECCA I. MACUS
WILLIAM J. MARPLE
DILLAN A. MASELLAS
ALEXANDER L. MCGINNIS
ANDREW J. METZCUS
MICAH D. MUNDEN
ADAM M. OSBORN
BRANDON H. PONTIUS
DAVID C. REINHARDT
BRIAN E. SCOTT
ERIC D. SHUEY
REID W. SMYTHE
WILLIAM T. TAFT
JON M. WASHKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

DREW R. BARKER
ROBERT G. BEAUCHAMP
ISAAC A. KEEVER
JOCELYN K. LIBERG
BLAKE A. LYON
DANIEL E. MORAN
MARK L. MORRISON
KARL S. ORTHNER
KATHLEEN E. PAULS
ALEXANDER M. SANDRONI
TIMOTHY W. SHILLING
THEODORE J. STOW
CHRISTOPHER E. WELLS
KRISTEN S. WHITESELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MIGUEL A. BERNAL, JR.
JOSHUA I. CAMPBELL
ANTHONY M. ELLERBE
JOHN B. KRAFT
THOMAS D. MIYANO
WAYNE A. SHIPMAN III
CLEMENT L. SMITH
PHILIP D. TOREM
AMANDA J. WELLS
DARRIN L. WILLIAMS
PHILLIP A. ZAMARRIPA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

RICHARD S. CHERNITZER
MEGAN E. ISAAC
ROBERT G. MYERS
JACQUELINE E. PAU
LAURA K. STEGHERR
STEPHANIE A. H. TURO
RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JASON K. BRUCE

FRANCIS B. CARNABY
ERIC M. COTE
JOSHUA P. ESTEVAN
LYNDSEY D. FATZ
COLLIN R. FOX
WINDSOR S. H. FRINELL
JEFFREY R. FROST
TIMOTHY N. JENSEN
DANIEL L. JUSTICE
TIMOTHY B. LINDSAY
CHRISTOPHER J. R. MCCOOK
JASON Y. OSUGA
BRIAN M. SHECKELLS
JIMMY J. SUH
TROY M. WILLMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

SYLVESTER C. ADAMAH
GREGGORY A. BENTON
TROY M. BROWN
CATHERINE U. EYRICH
STEPHEN J. FICHTER
JARED A. JASINSKI
JASON H. LOCKHART
DAVID M. MATVAY, JR.
MICHAEL W. MCCAIN
ANCELMO J. MCCARTHY
STEPHEN T. PADHI
JEFFREY A. RICHER
ROBERT D. STILES
JULIANA M. STRIETER
PRESTON D. TAYLOR
MATTHEW T. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

PATRICK L. GERMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ANDREW S. POOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KEVIN M. BACON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM
JESSICA R. CHRISTIANSEN
CHARLES M. CRANSTON, JR.
BRANDON T. DEHAAN
BRIAN M. FINGER
ANGEL O. OLIVERA
WILLIAM E. SNIDER III
KATHERINE VESTER
LYNN M. WALL
CHARLES S. WHITE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHABONNIE R. ALEXANDER
DAVID L. BADMAN, JR.
MICHAEL M. CAFFEY
ODARIOUS L. CHAMBERS
PAUL K. COOPER, JR.
MICHAEL J. DASCH
MARK E. DEMAREE
NEIL HALSTEAD
ROBERT F. KERSEY III
JOSEPH M. LANEY
JOHN PETERS
SHARIVA A. ROBINSON
JOEY SANDERS
ALEXA SANDIFER
LAWRENCE E. SCHAFFER
KARL C. THOMSEN
JERRY R. TOFTE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MICHAEL J. ARNOLD
STEVEN R. BANKS
MICHAEL J. BARRY
CAROL L. BUDZIK
KEVIN A. BYRD
MARIO J. CARDOSO
MAX A. CLARK II
ERIN B. COAN
JAMES C. DEMITRACK
JOY U. DIERKS
TAI A. DO
BENJAMIN J. DRINKWINE
JONATHAN N. ELLIOT
DANIEL F. ELLIOTT
SAMUEL G. ESPIRITU
IAN M. FOWLER

MARCIA L. FRYE
JASON A. GORDON
THANH D. HOANG
ALEXANDER M. HOLSTON
ASHLEY E. HUMPHRIES
DONALD W. HURST
NICOLE D. HURST
GRANT A. KIDD
THAD D. KLIMPEL
BRIAN S. KNIPP
ROBERT J. KRAUSE
JOHN T. LANDERS
IAN M. LAUGHLIN
SEAN P. LEONARD
MARK F. LUND
MONICA A. LUTGENDORF
ROBERT M. MARKS
JACQUELINE C. MCDOWELL
NANCY L. MILLER
ALICEA M. MINGO
TODD J. MONDZELEWSKI
NICOLAS B. MOYADELPINO
WILLIAM B. NGUYEN
EAMON B. OREILLY
JASON H. ROCKWOOD
TAMMY E. SERVICES
ROBERT G. SHEU
LINDA C. D. SMITH
JAMES B. SOLOMON
MELISSA R. STEGNERWILSON
DRAKE H. TILLEY
RALPH E. TUTTLE
TORRIN W. VELAZQUEZ
TAMARA J. WORLTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

CASEY J. BURNS
MITCHELL R. CHECCHI
CAREY H. COLLINSDEISLEY
MATTHEW C. DART
JOSEPH J. FRANZKE
FREDERIC GIAUQUE
BRIAN J. GUERRIERI
KEVIN W. HAVEMAN
JOSHUA F. HENSON
JEFFREY W. HILLEY
MONSERRAT JORDEN
DAVID Z. LIU
CALEB J. NOORDMANS
SCOTT A. PASIETA
ROBERT D. PAVEL
BRYAN P. RASMUSSEN
JENNIFER L. SMITH
RAYMOND F. TINUCCI
NICOLE G. WARD
KIRSTIN C. WIER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TIMOTHY D. BARNES
LAKESHA A. CHIEVES
TIFFANY F. CLINE
CHRISTOPHER L. COOPER
ESKINDER DAGNACHEW
ERICH J. DIETRICH
ADRIAN D. GASKIN
ROBERT D. GOAD
CARY J. ISAACSON
KYLE E. KEE
DAVID G. LANG
STEPHEN A. MARTY
NICHOLE A. OLSON
JEREMY S. PYLES
CHADWICK E. RAY
WILLIAM R. SCHEELER
ROBERT P. SENKO
ELIZABETH SMITH
JACQUELINE P. VANMOERKERQUE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

DEREK BUTLER
TREVOR J. GRANT
DANIELLE M. HIGSON
HAYES C. LARSEN
GERALDO PADILLA
SEAN M. SULLIVAN
BRENT E. TROYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ACCURSIA A. BALDASSANO
ARIC V. BAUDEK
RACHEL R. BAUDEK
RAYMOND L. BONDS
GLEN A. BRADFORD
TIMOTHY P. BRENDER
CARMEN M. BROSKINSKI
WENDY A. COOK
TYMESIA V. CORTEZ
CHERYL L. COTTRELL
NEVA R. FUENTES
ANNE S. H. HOLLIS
LALON M. KASUSKE
CATHERINE A. LUNA

June 15, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S4555

JILL M. MALDARELLIDREY
CRAIG T. MALLOY
KATHRYN M. R. STEWART
TARAIL VERNON
JERROL B. WALLACE
EDUARDO C. WELDON
JACQUELINE R. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ANTHONY P. BANNISTER
WILLIAM T. BENHAM
ANDRES DIAZ
JERETTA R. DILLON
JOSH A. ELSTON
TIMOTHY R. FREEMAN
TERRI L. GABRIEL
ANDREW E. HENWOOD
JOSHUA R. HILL
ROBERT J. JAMES
BARI J. JONES
DAVID K. JONES, JR.
PATRICK J. KELLY
FRANK D. KIM
ROBERT G. KOVACK, JR.
JOSHUA T. LANCASTER
EVELYN S. LEE
KEVIN S. MCNULTY
BRUCE M. REILLY II
PAMELA R. SAUCEDO
HORACIO G. TAN
MONICA R. TATE
JOHN H. TIPTON
DANIEL J. VETTSCH
LARRY S. WALLACE
RACHELE A. WHARTON

MICHAEL R. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JENNIFER D. BOWDEN
RANDALL D. EKSTROM
JAISEN E. FUSON
ROBERT W. HALL
WILLIAM A. HLAVIN
JAY J. KERSTEN
KURT A. MICHAELIS
JAMES M. PEUGH
JEFFREY QUINN
CLIFFORD P. RUTLEDGE
WILLIAM N. SOLOMON
DAVID A. STROUD

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR SPACE
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

EDWARD G. FERGUSON
GREGORY S. HOFFMAN
JAMES T. HORNE
BRYAN M. TITUS
DANIEL J. VISOSKY

To be lieutenant colonel

AARON M. AYERS
AMMY C. CARDONA
ROSS A. CONRAD
CHAD M. FREY
JERED N. FRY

LEODANNY GARCIA
BRIAN W. ILES
MICHAEL J. LASORDA
CHRISTIAN H. MORGAN
JESSICA E. MORGAN
DARREN NG
KATHLEEN C. OCONNOR
JASON M. PAUSEWANG
MARCUS A. SITTERLY
KIMBERLY A. TEMPLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR SPACE
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

JAMES J. WATSON

To be lieutenant colonel

RYAN C. LEY

To be major

LINCOLN K. MILLER

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by
the Senate June 15, 2021:

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

LINA M. KHAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL
TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF
SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2017.